



Founded 1968

OBFS Annual Report 2012

www.obfs.org

OBFS GOVERNANCE

Email address available on the OBFS website

Elected Positions (Executive Committee)

President	Bill Schuester	2012-2014
Past President	Ian Billick	2012-2014
Vice President	Deedra McClearn	2011-2013
Secretary	Sarah Oktay	2012-2014
Treasurer	Philippe Cohen	2010-2012
At-Large	Mark Schulze	2011-2013
At-Large	Sarah Oktay	2012-2014

Board Selected Officer Positions

Editor	David White	2012-2014
Network Coordinator	Gwen Pearson	2011-2013

Organizational Standing Committee Chairs

Human Diversity	Stacy McNulty	2010-2012
International	Deedra McClearn	2010-2012
Governance	Eric Nagy	2010-2012
Org Development	Ian Billick	2010-2012
Outreach	Philippe Cohen	2010-2012
Historian	Mary Hufty	(no term limit)

President's Committees

Annual Meeting	Karie Slavik	2011-2013
Nominating	Ian Billick	2012-2014

The OBFS *Annual Report* contains results of the 2012 elections, minutes of the annual meeting, list of annual meeting attendees, meeting exit survey, other meeting minutes, budgets, and other business of the organization.

The *Annual Report* is posted on the web site (www.obfs.org) as a PDF file. It, along with previous *Annual Reports* and *Newsletters*, is available to all members in good standing.

The OBFS *Annual Report* is produced at the Hancock Biological Station by David White with assistance from Karla Johnston and Gerry Harris. All inquiries should be addressed to editor@obfs.org.

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CANDIDATE PROFILES FOR 2012 OBFS ELECTIONS

The election was held through SurveyMonkey and open to all member stations in good standing.

Polls were open from November 12 to December 12, 2012

82 of 199 eligible stations voted

VICE PRESIDENT



Deedra McClearn

I am a biologist by training and work mostly on small mammals and large trees. For the past 16 years I have worked for the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) on international programs, including field

courses in Costa Rica and South Africa. For seven years I was the director of the La Selva Biological Station in Costa Rica. My new appointment is with Duke University in the capacity of developing academic programs for the new Duke Kunshan University in China. My association with OBFS was critical during my time as a field station director and I plan to continue this involvement for the friendships and networking opportunities the society has brought to me.



Charles Ponzi

(aka Carlo Pietro Giovanni Guglielmo Tebaldo Ponzi)

For many reasons I feel the need to run for Treasurer of OBFS. I am very likeable, I know you will trust me because I really like this organization, and you know I like

you. I am a very good money manager and know how to invest the organizations' funds. I do have some insider information that will make us a bundle of money. If elected, I will let you in on this deal, but you can't tell anyone about it. It's a sure thing. It will double our investments in no time. This other guy running for treasurer is probably okay, but he doesn't have enough names and will just be sitting around at the annual meeting drinking beer with Arty McKee (that guy sounds like a real slacker) and not looking after our money. I know I am new to OBFS, but I really like all of you.

TREASURER



Philippe Cohen

This hair should be proof of my willingness to serve. But there are a couple of other things you should consider before casting your vote for me. First, at annual meetings I will be unavailable to share that cold beer on

some evening get-togethers, so Art won't have me to kick around. So WHICH do you prefer, having me there to pontificate and be the foil for Art's rapier wit, or providing me with access to the organization's bank account? Finally, ask yourself, would electing Philippe to be treasurer meet the high fashion standards that future treasurers will have to live

MEMBER AT LARGE (Member Number 1) Vote for one of the choices



Mel Dean

I am running for the open 'Member at Large' seat to give back to the organization that has helped me tremendously for over six years. My background includes a master's degree in biology with an emphasis in

entomology. I have used, or been employed by, a field station over the last 12 years. My first field station experience as a employee was as the Operations Manager for the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (have you seen those user day numbers?!). I decided to change climates and moved to

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Hawaii to work with the Nature Conservancy as their Palmyra Atoll Coordinator (talk about logistical challenges!). I finally landed where I had been aiming in Hilo, Hawaii where I currently work for the USFS as the Coordinator for the Hawaii Tropical Experimental Forest. I'd be honored to serve on the OBFS Board and hope for your support.



Jerald Dosch

I have a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolution from Rutgers and am the Director of Macalester College's Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area (aka, Ordway Field Station). I have over 20 years of research and teaching experience and first joined the OBFS a few years ago. I co-wrote a

successful NSF-FSML planning grant proposal for the Ordway station and have several years of board experience serving on the Friends of Fort Snelling/Fort Snelling State Park Association (an organization dedicated to the preservation of the historic and natural values in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area). Since becoming director of Macalester's field station I have helped strengthen its commitment to its four pillar mission of education, research, sustainability, and civic engagement. In addition to reinvigorating the station's undergraduate research program through the college, the National Park Service, and the University of Minnesota, we became a core network member of the NSF-RCN funded Ecological Research as Education Network (EREN). The station has reached out to local elementary schools, scouts (Girl, Boy and Cub), the state native plant society, the local Sierra Club chapter, a local arts organization, and a regional citizens' organization aimed at protecting and enhancing the Mississippi River watershed. I would love to serve as an OBFS member at large in order to represent the organization's small stations and liberal arts colleges. I believe these members with relatively little land and small budgets need representation on the board in order to achieve our big hopes with small resources.

Paul Foster

I would be honored to serve as Member At Large on the OBFS Board. I am currently Director of the Reserva Ecológica Bijagual in Sarapiquí, Costa Rica where I maintain biodiversity and meteorological datasets, coordinate visits by researchers and courses, and handle administrative tasks. We joined OBFS four years ago, and I have enjoyed attending the past



five meetings. When the meeting was held in Costa Rica in 2009, I was one of the coordinators and helped organize the International Field Stations symposium. Field stations have been an important part of my training as a tropical plant ecologist. I have worked in forests and

field stations in the US, Latin America and Africa and believe that OBFS can be an important resource for stations from around the world. I'm committed to promoting OBFS in order to recruit new stations and working to meet the needs of our current members. We are a dynamic organization, and I look forward to bringing the knowledge and experiences of the larger community of field station scientists, visitors, and students to the decision-making process of the Board.

Phil Gibson



I am Director of the University Oklahoma's Kessler Atmospheric and Ecological Field Station. I hold a joint appointment as an Associate Professor in the Department of Biology, and the Department of Micro-biology and Plant Biology. I received my B.S. in Botany from Oklahoma State University, M.S. in

Botany from the University of Georgia, and Ph.D. in Environmental, Population, and Organismic Biology from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Oklahoma, I was Associate Professor and Chair of the Biology Department at Agnes Scott College. I have taught courses at the University of Colorado Mountain Research Station, and have been involved with students in field experiences at the Highlands Biological Station and The Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center at Ichauway. I also have led workshops on using field experiences for The Project Kaleidoscope Keystone Institute. Phil's research investigates the evolutionary ecology of plant reproductive systems, plant conservation biology, and science education. I am an active member of the Botanical Society of America and have served as Chair and Program Director of the BSA

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Teaching Section and Vice Chair of the Ecological Section. I want to serve as a member-at-large so that I can become more involved in the activities of an organization that has been a tremendous help as I have learned the ropes of running and growing a field station.



Damon Gannon

I have worked nearly my entire career at field stations and marine laboratories; from large institutions to small, remote outposts including Manomet Center for Conservation Science,

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Grand Manan Whale & Seabird Research Station, Duke University Marine Laboratory, and Mote Marine Laboratory. Since 2008, I have been the director of the Bowdoin Scientific Station (BSS) in New Brunswick, Canada. BSS is a small station on a group of islands in the lower Bay of Fundy, roughly half-way between the southern tip of Nova Scotia and the coast of Maine. BSS is operated by Bowdoin College, a liberal arts college in Maine, and has been a member of OBFS since the early 1990s. OBFS has been a tremendously helpful resource to me as I've been "learning the ropes" of managing a field station. As a member of the board, I would work to help new members take advantage of all that OBFS has to offer and to ensure the continued vitality of the organization.

ELECTION RESULTS!!!

OBFS congratulates the newly elected officers from the 2012 ballot and thanks all who were willing to run and provide their services to the organization. Positions begin April 1, 2013.

Vice President – Deedra McClearn

Treasurer – Philippe Cohen

Member at Large (1) – Mel Dean

Official Secretary Notes

OBFS Annual Meeting

Archbold Biological Station, Venus, FL

September 19 – 23, 2012

"Full STEAM Ahead: building bridges among Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics at our field stations"

Thursday September 20th

Welcome Addresses (7:00-8:00 PM)

Welcome and Introduction from current President

Bill Schuster, Executive Director, Black Rock Forest Consortium

Bill Schuster: Welcome to the largest OBFS meetings we have ever held with 10 countries represented and 118 attendees. Please take advantage of all your colleagues by networking. Think of new stations that should join and don't forget to fill out the exit survey. Then Schuster explained the theme and encouraged folks to submit nominations for upcoming meeting locations. He also reminded us that we are looking

for nominations for Vice President, Member at Large, and Treasurer.

Welcome from Past President Ian Billick, Executive Director, Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory

Ian Billick said to give him a photo and statement for your nomination for the positions above. Then he spoke about the 2014 joint OBFS/NAML meeting and the recently completed draft report from the NSF grant on the OBFS/NAML strategic plan (including the final survey results). All the draft reports are online (<http://fsmfuture.weebly.com/>).

Welcome from Host Mary Hufty, Chair-Archbold Expeditions, OBFS Historian

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Introduction to Archbold Biological Station Hilary

Swain, ABS Executive Director

- ABS facility highlights
- Meeting Agenda and Arrangements (domestic affairs)
- Instructions for speakers and session organizers
- Art Exhibit—Sketching and Notebooks
- Auction

Friday Sept 21st

Opening Remarks by OBFS President Bill Schuster.

Plenary #1: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Ecosystem Research and Management at the Jones Center

Lindsay Boring, Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center *Slides are available from PowerPoint presentation on the OBFS website.*

Concurrent session 1

Concurrent session 2

Art show

OBFS Diversity Award was given to the UMass Boston Nantucket Field Station by Amy Whipple in recognition of the Grace Grossman Youth Collaborative. This program serves urban schools throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts providing high-school and middle-school students with a week-long, all expenses paid trip to the UMB-NFS to learn about ecology, the environment, science, and history. More information can be found at www.umb.edu/nantucket

Saturday September 22nd

Business meeting: Saturday morning

8:00-9:00 AM

Bill Schuster gaveled meeting together at 8:08 AM with the “Big Ass Gavel”.

President Schuster covered Tom Callahan’s Four Maxims for Conduct at OBFS Meetings: “(1) treat everyone decently, (2) learn to laugh at yourself, (3) know that everyone makes mistakes, so **Get Over It!**, and (4) don’t call the authorities unless there is fire or blood.”

He thanked everyone for contributing the art. The business session will be fast and furious with lots of short reports and meeting announcements.

- 1) Auction items; get them into the classroom; the items can be viewed up until 4:30. Silent auction items can be bid up until 7:00 PM. We also need out of context quotes and performance art.
- 2) Small field station committee will meet at lunch in screen porch in lodge.
- 3) Nomination for officers; we need nominations for a new Member at Large, Treasurer (although Philippe Cohen is willing to serve) and Vice President.
- 4) Please fill out exit surveys and give them to the host as you leave.

Move to reports

Secretary report (Sarah Oktay): meeting minutes are available from the last meeting and the most recent BOD meeting (August 31st). She mentioned that she also is the chair of the Member Support Committee and encouraged those at meeting to ask for help if they need it.

Fiscal Report (Philippe Cohen): \$169,000 net assets; \$126,000 is in restricted funds; rest is in CDs and checking account. Budget for last fiscal year was around \$28,000, and we spent little less than \$14,000; spent half of what we expected; IRS returned us a fine that they levied. *See page 11 for complete report*

Congressional Visits Day (Mark Stromberg): contact Stromberg if you would like to meet with AIBS (American Institute of Biological Sciences) and your congressmen in DC. You can fly in, orientate with OBFS; figure out who you want to see, and go visit them (AIBS will set up appointments). Also if you know your congressman or senator, you can visit on your own or meet with their staff. AIBS gives you talking points; the key is to support the science and support the NSF budget (typically done in March). OBFS normally can send 5 people particularly if people figure out ways to drive and stay with friends. Great training for a 3-minute elevator spiel; learn to shrink down what you need to say. Contact Mark.Stromberg@gmail.com if you are interested. *See page 23 for report on Congressional Visits day for 2012.*

Historian Report (Mary Hufty): Archbold is the site of the OBFS archives; all are stored in special cabinets, and they include photographs and old documents

LTER report (Brian Kloeppel): John van de Caste is here. Bob Waide is typically called before each quarterly meeting in order to get an update. The LTER just had an all scientists meeting with 750 folks. Van de Castle also mentioned there are funding opportunities through LTER. Talk with him or Brian Kloeppel for details.

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LTER representatives should be at the joint OBFS/NAML meetin in 2014 at Woods Hole because there are 3 LTER sites in the immediate area; they should be there at SWRS OBFS annual Meeting in 2013

Organization development for OBFS (Brian Kloeppel): currently he is chair of a friendraising and fundraising committee formed by OPBFS after holding a successful friendraising initial event last year at Jasper Ridge featured Ellen McIlwane and a host of OBFS directors who spoke about OBFS and the importance of Field Stations for science and education. Donations covered the entire cost.

AIBS report (Eric Nagy): Nagy is our OBFS member representative to AIBS. AIBS publishes the journal *Bioscience*. They are a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) based out of Washington, DC. AIBS' primary mission is to serve its members. Individual members or member organizations receive many services and opportunities to interact. AIBS runs and orchestrates the Congressional Visits Day mentioned above. They also have been involved in congressional briefings, presented at the National Press Club, and ran a series on field stations. We have been talking with AIBS about how to support an OBFS staff person. 100 or so organization such as OBFS are members of AIBS, but we are an important one. AIBS is available to OBFS to help facilitate visits to DC or talk with people in Policy or Science offices. Nagy is on the AIBS council and attends meetings. Go to the AIBS website, www.aibs.org, for a full report from last December. Eric was elected to the council board, so he is available to be our interface.

Committee reports:

Governance Committee (Eric Nagy): He is chair of the Governance Committee that is charged with maintaining the bylaws and other governance documents and structure. The Governance Committee did a lot of work on the bylaws and is currently working on the procedures and policies manual.

Public docs: Member access to documents comes up once one has logged into the OBFS website. There are a variety of public documents with lots of great information. Once logged in, one can get more stuff: annual reports with budget details, Newsletters, Annual Reports, etc. We now have wiki editing access for members of the BOD working on the website such as governance, outreach, web chair, etc. The wiki is for all members of the board of directors and committee chairs. It has our policy and procedures manual and the bylaws so we can work on those documents.

Special acknowledgment to Gwen Pearson from Philippe Cohen; she is amazing and has done a huge amount of work on the web site.

NEON, National Ecological Observatory Network, report (Hilary Swain): OBFS is a NEON member and obviously interested in NEON progress and goals. This is the middle of Hilary's second term as a member at large on the Board of Directors; Debra Goldberg with the University of Michigan Biological Station also is a member of the NEON Board. NEON is an NSF funded project with a series of domains each containing one core site and two relocatable sites. NEON is a membership organization, several universities are members. NEON is being physically deployed; Ordway-Swisher is physically going in, Harvard Forest is going in. First data streams are coming out; super LIDAR; atmospheric streams; quick response for Hyde Park fire; that plane is available for NSF funded research. Main office is in Boulder CO. NEON is hiring regional staff and both permanent and temporary staff.

International committee (Deedra McClearn): Of the almost 200 OBFS members about 35 are non-US. We would like to increase the number of stations from outside of the US. We are looking at starting initiatives that bring in more new members and update the old list. McClearn has been working on the international committee, and her term is up so they need a new committee chair. She would love to have a new champion. This is a fun subcommittee with lots of enthusiasm and willingness to help within the general membership. If you are an international field station and can't afford the membership, you can apply to me, Philippe Cohen, or Sarah Oktay depending on the largess of the finance committee. If you want to join, don't let fear of paying the annual dues be a barrier to joining OBFS. The international component is important not just for the membership but for diversifying the meeting. Please talk with Bill Schuster about joining or being the committee chair. For US stations if you have a international partner, please get them to join OBFS as well.

Website (Gwen Pearson- report available via email and website): Pearson sent us an astounding report on the use of the website. We have left the triage stage and the patient is stable, and we have added a couple of surgeons to help with content from Sarah Oktay and Eric Nagy; now we are moving into adding things. A couple of outstanding issues: we have had a problem with special characters; randomly assigns characters. She has been told it will be fixed at the end of the year. She also will be updating the directory function so it is sortable. Map itself is still chugging along; so many people use the map. This is generated weekly; she renews it every Saturday or Sunday. We do have a LinkedIn group as well as a Facebook group; everything she posts in news and jobs she mirrors in on FB and LinkedIn. If you send her stuff, she will post it. Please "Like the Page". All the content information is on the Governance page.

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DataOne Presentation (Rebecca Koskela): DataOne is an NSF funded project; now in production mode and went live in July. There are 8 member nodes that are individual depositories that have been networked together; search function for federated network; can search data sets for a particular region. The webpage (www.dataone.org) has info on how to participate or join the DataOne user group; they meet once a year. There are many ways to access data; down at the bottom a list of member nodes; PISCO, LTER network, ESA Data Registry, ORNL, DAAC, etc. They also have educational modules to help with data management planning; a variety of DMP (data management plan) templates for various directives, best practices and software tools and they teach a course on data management each summer. She has some of the current newsletters, sticky notes, and bookmarks. As you can see from their home page, they have just been asked by the White House Office of Public Engagement to collaborate on a Safety Data Challenge.

Mark Stromberg gave a very brief Phrenology network update.

Concluded business session on time: 9:04 am

Remaining Business meeting continued Sunday morning

Plenary #2 Updates on a Strategic Planning Effort Supported by NSF DBI *See page 9, slides available on OBFS website*

NSF Briefing: NSF Update and Discussion

Peter McCartney Program Director, Directorate of Biological Sciences)

John Wingfield Assistant Director for the Directorate of Biological Sciences *See page 11 for more detail on their presentations. Copies of slide presentations available for members on the member portion of the OBFS web site*

Sunday 9/23/2012

Remaining Business meeting: 8:30-9:00 am

Fiscal Update: Every year our VP audits the fiscal reports.

Karie Slavik audited FY 2012. She had questions for Philippe Cohen and found some mistakes, and it is all set. All done and correct.

- Budget predicted \$28,000
- 195 members predicted; right now at 196
- October 1 due notice
- He proposed to dedicate \$6000 to subsidize field station's travel to OBFS to support 4-6 people.

- Most numbers are consistence with previous year's budgets. Not wise to reduce the amount budgeted.
- Mark Stromberg: he thinks more people should go to Congressional Visit Day if money is available.

Most of the treasurer's support is in hourly fees to Philippe Cohen's wife, Hilary. We should have a conflict of interest policy. Schuster: do we have statement that board members sign? We should develop a policy. Kloeppel has a potential budget item: \$\$ needed for fundraising/friendraising and organizational development. Cohen has budgeted \$2500. Kloeppel thinks it may need to be higher. Cost was \$2700 for the Stanford event; Donations = \$2800. Hilary Swain: this question may be more for the strategic plan. OBFS may need something glossy to hand out at the 2014 joint meeting, something more than the brochure. Cohen: would those expenses be this fiscal year?? Maybe.

Money for auction: somewhere over \$9000 that will be a record if it holds. 118 members; largest attendance.

Gwen Pearson and Philippe Cohen spoke about our member payment software. Only problem with new program/service called Moolah is that there is no audit trail for the small charge that is extracted. Pearson: even when the dongle is broken you can add in info by hand. We will have the ability to swipe cards. And we have a form so you can donate directly online. Cohen immediately gets an email that says when someone has registered or paid.

Stacy McNulty proposed that we should sponsor a student or young career investigator. Schuster would like people to think about that.

Human diversity awards, there will be a call for nominations; should have a slate of great stations.

Congressional Visit Day: there will be a call for volunteers to attend, especially wanted are members who have not gone in the past.

Future meetings: Bill Schuster has been contacted by a great Lakes area Field Station about hosting for 2015. He asked them to contact Karie Slavik about what is involved. Al Muth: what about going to an international station?? Some people are worried about excess costs for people to travel. Should not eliminate or discount potential travel to international stations because of fear of cost. It may take more planning or some subsidizing. Hilary Swain: we need to be thinking about increasing size of the meeting attendance. Do we have an idea of how many field stations could manage to host a meeting? Pearson: we used to have that info on the website; when we moved it over it never was updated. Only around 10-15 field stations are large enough to host a meeting at its

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current size (110). Swain: so what does that mean to us? Pick somewhere central to travel like a hotel, then go to field trips at the field station. LTER has better ways to do it. It meets at a YMC camp; 700 people. Pick an outdoorsy place. Cohen: only way to solve it is see how it evolves; could cap attendance; have a cutoff; could cap at the number of representatives. Open up the number of people who could apply. Cohen: he can't provide housing on station but we could stay nearby. Highlands in Coweta; little cumbersome, but it worked; housing was about 20-30 minutes away. Really special to have international visitors, and Deedra's McClearn group really added a lot. Schuster: VP is in charge of helping us decide or solicit for new hosting stations. The joint meeting at Woods Hole is an example of a large meeting with no single source housing.

Nominations: Billick is collecting them; VP Deedra McClearn; no competition for Cohen yet. Member at Large: Phil Gibson, Mel Dean, Paul Foster, Jerald Dosch, Damon Gannon. At the December meeting we will be appointing new committee chairs (Paul Foster and Carlos de la Rosa).

Board calls/quarterly meetings are open to the entire OBFS membership. Let us know if you wish to participate and we will provide the conference call information. We could send an email out to listserve to let people actually register for a call and then they can contact Schuster or Billick to be included (next one is December 3rd). On that note, for Pearson, is there a calendar of events on the website; like a Google widget. BOD call; meeting dates, CVD. Pearson, there is, but we put classes there right now; she'll look at that.

Concluding remarks from Bill Schuster: this has been a great meeting, thanks for attending and participating; it was appropriate to have an art component. Thanked session organization and contributors. Great to have Ivar Babb here. Ivar: really enjoyed it. We owe a debt of gratitude to the auctioneers and to the wenches. Lots of behind the scenes work done by Karie Slavik, our VP. Excellent meeting thanks to Hilary and Debbie Upp!

Hilary Swank: great honor to host it; twice in a life is enough. She loved it.

Bill: don't forget. Please do the exit survey.

Ed Boyer: The presentation on the wildlife corridor was very inspirational; really made the meeting. Bordered on entertainment, great highlight.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE OBFS WEBSITE?

- A. Information dissemination to non-members, public, and societal decision-makers about what OBFS members do/are all about
- B. Services to Members (in form of information dissemination, networking, contact info)
- C. Service to OBFS organization (in form of record-keeping and document sharing)

RUDIMENTARY OBFS WEB CONTENT INVENTORY (organized by audience/purpose); Sept 2010

A. Information Dissemination to public:

- General info pages (research, education, etc)
 - Exist and are attractive
 - Plan for maintenance over time as pages age?
- News
 - Exists, but could be more user-friendly in appearance
 - No plan for maintenance, no one is responsible for posting/policing appropriate content, so there is rarely *new* news
- Jobs
 - Exists; seems to be working ok
- Class listings
 - Exist, but not currently sorting by date, so all classes *ever* taught are the default display
 - Some database errors show wrong stations with/classes (possible result of old data import mistakes from previous website)
 - No simple way to search **just** the course listings, although the overall site search box does a good job finding classes

B. Services to Members:

- Map of stations <http://obfs.org/map> (clickable visual directory)
 - *Is a popular feature among members and viewed as an important service*
 - Does not always work for mysterious reasons
 - The Map feature is quite complex, and needs someone who understands SQL/PHP to ride herd on it, as Google code tweaks happen regularly.
- Directory of stations <http://obfs.org/directories>
 - *Is a popular feature among members and viewed as an important service*
 - Mostly Working: Directory of stations, listed alphabetically

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- Station directory can be sorted by clicking on columns, but that is not marked as a clickable link
- Not possible to search by state, which might be desirable to users
- Individuals are not linked to stations correctly; should show –all- individuals with an association in station record and on station page
- Duplicate records exist in database
 - Restrictions on new users creating records unknown; possible source of duplicates?
- Individual station pages are fairly blah in appearance
- List of all users does not contain useful information
- Class listings (exists, see A above)
- Job Postings (exists, see A above)
- News (exists, see above)
- Annual meeting pages
 - Meeting committee maintains these?
- Document sharing
 - Working: files are tagged, which allows for quick sorting and retrieval by database
 - Files for download do not have extension showing; should indicate if it's a ppt, doc, or a pdf.
 - Files are usually linked to a download page that is redundant. (2 or more clicks before actual file found)
 - Rules about photo upload size are too generous (allows 2MB photos!)

C. Services to OBFS Organization:

- Repository for current membership database
 - Ideal: Shift responsibility for updating membership listing (addresses, etc) onto members, rather than organizational officer serving as a data input person
 - Reality: Database not accurate; duplicate records created

- Unsure of new user approval method (if any), which may account for duplicate records
- Relationship of membership database to listserver subscription unclear
- Ideal: Online payment of membership
 - Reality: It appears that this function has never worked as hoped
 - User that manages station record is often NOT the person that pays the bills, so multiple individual records need to be associated with the station record
 - Multiple users/station appears to not be supported, and must be managed manually
 - Currently, online payment is disabled
 - *Both OBFS officers and members are frustrated with the process*
- Repository for document sharing for committees, as well as historic records
 - See comments about Document Sharing above
 - Unsure about long term management plan for historic documents/financial records
- Monitoring of web traffic and search terms for content management and decision making
 - Not currently functioning

General list of broken stuff that doesn't fit elsewhere:

- Captcha still not working; don't know why.
- We need to retain a "go to" person to repair SQL, PHP, and other coding errors/issues
- Bajillions of orphan files; not a clear file structure in the directory as past websites were copied/saved in entirety in their old format. (check this out: <http://obfs.org/obfs1/>)

The Future of Field Station and Marine Labs: Updates on a Strategic Planning Effort. Supported by NSF: DBI Ivar Babb and Ian Billick

Update on the strategic plan; workshop: Nov 2011, Colorado Springs; where is research education and resource management headed; conducted a survey submitted in June;

now working on the final report. They will also issue a 2 page synthesis document.

Staff support; Jessica Ruvinsky; Apex Educations (Survey)

Grand Challenges

- Attributes of FSML Identified by working group
- Organismal and Population Biology

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- Ecosystem Dynamics
- Macrosystems
- Identify future directions: networks center
- Education and in-out reach
- Bioinformatics, terrestrial genomics, grand challenges, prediction, communication and outreach
- Cross scale and cross site analysis data intensive science
- <http://fsmlfuture.weebly.com/draft-final-report.html>

We identified and contacted 444 institutions, and 227 responded; over 50% respond rate (high). A survey designed to put our own institutions into the larger context. Asked for programmatic and financial information= science trends for folks operating- climate change and technology

How are they organized; 75% college and university 14% federal or governmental agencies ,11 % are non profit.

What kind of basis exists in the survey? Randomly selected some of the known respondents; all identical in profile to the profile. Some folks might not have been on the list. So Ian feels that the stats above are pretty accurate.

What is the monetary scale; long tail! Sweet spot 250 K to 5 million 47%; annual investment on the level of a quarter of a billion dollars- this is just annual expenditures; close to a billion dollars total investment.

Final report: intent is to generate a document that synthesize survey and workshop and expertise of steering committee; want a document that can be used on multiple contexts; maybe more visionary than a strategic plan.

- 1) Predicting the future
- 2) Long term processes
- 3) Broader spatial scales
- 4) automated sensing
- 5) genetic sequencing- vanishing costs- large amounts of genomic data
- 6) Non-model organisms; *Drosophila* (fruit flies), *Arabidopsis* (mustard), etc. for field experiments
- 7) Big data;
- 8) Experiments/studies as infrastructure
- 9) Collaboration/complexity and
- 10) Sustainability science

Definition of a Field Station and Marine Lab largely administratively defined. Parochial. Decided we need a clear definition of a FS or ML. "An institution that has a geographic focus; with research on environmental processes; research by multiple groups over sustained periods of time."

Claudia asked about the role of education. Ian: we are focused on facilities with a research component; an environmental education center is what he would call a place that focuses more on education. We should clarify that we are truly a multidisciplinary. She feels that this definition is a great exercise but should be broadened. Ian this is a draft report in which we are seeking feedback.

In addition to OBFS and NAML, there are other networks of FSML experiment Forest and Ranges; US parks; Coastal and Estuarine Research National Estuarine, etc.

4 unique functions of FSMLs

1. They provide access to the environment (direct and virtual)
2. They provide logistical support (labs, classrooms, ships, computational, sensor networks)
3. Through time they become model ecosystems
4. They promote the development of a community of scholars (interdisciplinary researchers, natural and social sciences)

Standardized data streams; How FS and ML often connect: integrated ocean observing system network; ocean observing initiative; system wide monitoring (NERRS); US parks vital signs; LTER; NEON, etc.

Unique contributions of Field Station and Marine Labs

- Flexibility – not defined datastreams;
- Geographic/spatial distribution;
- History/temporal distribution
- To understand complex environmental systems changing over time in ways that:
- Apply across sites
- Allow predictions
- Provide the ability to manage and intervene
- FSMLs bring together:
- Multiple data streams
- Multiple scientists
- Multiple stake holders

Recommendations – General

- Increase the value to society of the science done at FSMLs as well as the understanding of that value
- Increase scientific value of fsml by increasing their flow of information
- Enhance the synergies between education and research
- Ensure appropriate access by scientist and student to land and marine systems
- Increase the operational effectiveness of FSMLs

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Recommendations – specific

- Joint NAML and OBFS meeting
- Network Center: stitch together organization and partners in a natural and helpful way

- National initiative for archiving environmental data
- Assess education's impacts of FSMLs
- National initiative to ensure access by scientists to public lands

Peter McCartney, National Science Foundation FSML: Improvements in Facilities, Communications, and Facilities at Biological Field Stations and Marine Laboratories

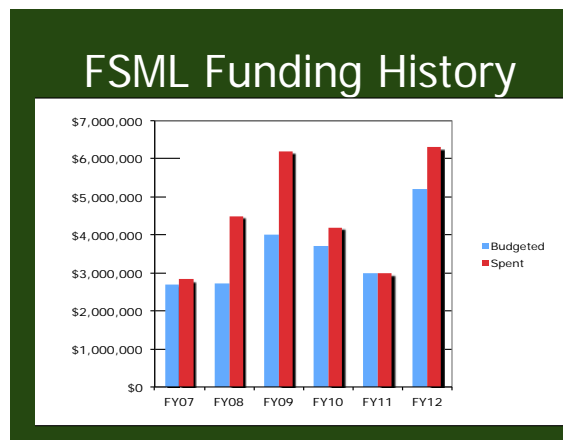
Planning grants 25K

- Infrastructure grants of up to 350 K
- Dec 14th deadline
- Cross directorate activity: BIO (Peter McCartney); GEO (Kandace Binkley); EHR (Dave Campbell)
- Part of a multi scale portfolio of NSF support for observational and experimental research

New procedures

- National environmental policy act: copies of previous environmental assessments, communications with EPA, SHPO, Fish and Wildlife, copies of Permits, MOU, detailed maps of impact areas
- Project Management and oversight
- Project Execution Plan: Work Breakdown Structure, Schedule, Staffing Budget, Risk Assessment (what parts are risky or will hold up other parts- not required of all grants)
- Budget confirmation; need this to be a quote or pretty good estimate
- Data Management Plan required

FSML Funding History:



- 6 million, 4 million FY10
- FY 11 3 million FY 2012 6 million
- Holding steady at target of allocations as close to 4 million as we can; spent versus budget;
- 30% funding ratio; pretty good (fund a lot of small awards)
- Focus on construction on buildings like labs greenhouse that are related to actual construction activities; renovations on dorms is okay- want direct impact on research; cyber infrastructure.

Top Ten Weaknesses of FSML Proposals

10. Incremental or no advance over current capabilities
9. Limited benefit to NSF funded, basic research
8. Limited or declining trend in visiting users
7. Limited research productivity
6. Request primarily serves PI's research or teaching
5. Limited institutional support
4. Missed opportunities in outreach
3. Poor project management/budget justification
2. Weak data management plan
1. It's a shopping list!

John C. Wingfield, NSF Assistant Director for BIO sciences

Vision of a Strategic Innovation for the Biological Sciences

- Lots of challenges have a biological basis.
- Grand challenges: 2009 NRC report; 5 they are focusing on: genomes to phenomes; neural systems, earth climate and biosphere, biological diversity, synthesizing life – synthetic biology- vaccines and clean energy).
- Earth's climate and life support are changing in unusual and unexpected ways.
- How will living systems respond and adapt to rapidly changing environments.

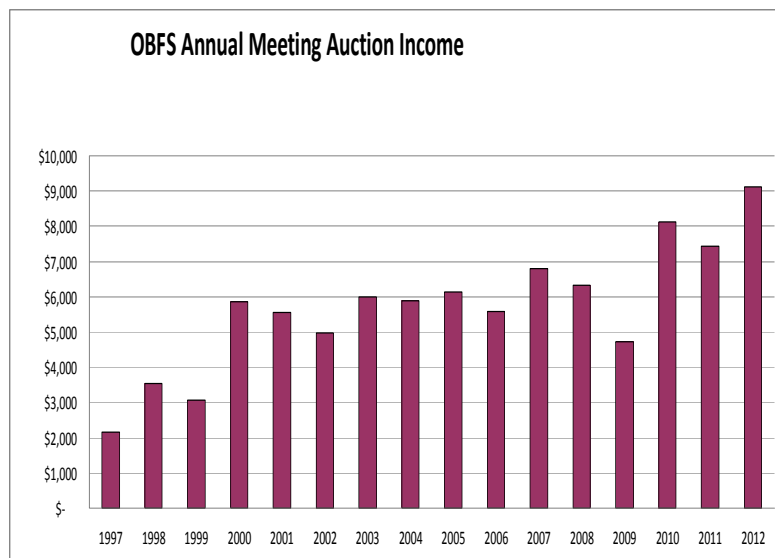
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- Diverse funding programs and themes across 4 divisions and emerging frontiers: strategic innovation for Biological Sciences (SIBS) LTER NEON, requires large cyber structure: SIBS.
- Emerging new themes we are already invested in. Need to raise profile in what we are investing in. examples: biodiversity, Bioeconomy food security, environment perturbations. Macrosystems, synthetic biology.
- Advancing Tree of life (AVAToL) assembling, visualizing, and analyzing the tree of life- phylogenetics; systematics.
- Raise policy in education public outreach and policy.
- Mobilize the dark data (notebooks on shelves).
- Improve data synthesis.
- Much more presented; refer to slides online.
- SESYNC: new the national socio environmental synthesis center; Also NEON and LTER.

ANNUAL OBFS AUCTION INCOME

Year	Amount	Annual Meeting Location
1997	\$2,164	Oregon Inst. of Marine Biology
1998	\$3,543	Archbold Biological Station
1999	\$3,059	Mountain Lake Biological Station
2000	\$5,847	HJ Andrews Experimental Forest
2001	\$5,559	Oklahoma Biological Station
2002	\$4,973	Kellogg Biological Station
2003	\$6,002	Kananaskis Field Station
2004	\$5,889	Shoals Marine Laboratory
2005	\$6,131	Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory
2006	\$5,593	Flathead Lake Biological Station
2007	\$6,793	Llano River Field Station
2008	\$6,327	Black Rock Forest
2009	\$4,722	La Selva Biological Station
2010	\$8,033	Michigan Biological Station
2011	\$7,430	Bodega Marine Lab and Reserve
2012	\$9,117	Archbold Biological Station

Total 1997-2012 \$91,262



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Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Financial Summary

Income:

Membership dues	\$ 26,195.00
Interest (CDs, checking)	\$ 310.48
Investment Dividends	\$ 302.56
Donations	\$ 2,364.00
Auction proceeds	\$ 7,430.00
Total Income:	\$ 36,602.04

Expenses:

Dues - Organizations	\$ 4,000.00
Bank and service charges	\$ 1,174.79
Congressional visits day	\$ 2,575.53
OBFS traveling exhibit shipping	\$ 263.75
Office and website	\$ 4,461.63
Committee Expenses	\$ 3,471.22
Total Expenses	\$ 15,946.92

Net Assets:

Mutual Fund Investments as of 8/31/2012	\$ 125,995.95
Checking Account	\$ 9,465.40
CDs	\$ 33,388.32
Total Assets	\$ 168,849.67

2012 Annual Meeting, Archbold Biological Station, Participant List

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Amy Whipple Merriam-Powell Research Station PO Box 5640 Northern Arizona University	John Wingfield National Science Foundation	John Vande Castle

OBFS 2012 Annual Meeting Exit Survey Results (36 Responses out of 118 attendees) Archbold Biological Station, Venus Florida

1) What topics would you like to see addressed in sessions at future annual meetings?

- Examples of field stations with good data management (2)
 - More hands-on topic
 - Including online access to the data through searchable databases. And how to make that happen. Examples are good.
- Development of management plans.
- How to develop an advisory committee (not a board) – who to ask?
- A discussion of field stations on federal lands and public lands (2)
 - Partnership success stories – how they started, lessons learned
- Hosting an external review and developing a strategic plan.
- K-12 education
- Appropriate technology – ground source heating/cooling, cyber infrastructure, distributed sensors
- More on other areas in NSF besides FSML – really need some coverage there.
- Volunteer coordination.
- Finding key private donors and foundations – experience stories, finding the ones that work well, what attributes to look for, how to cultivate a relationship
- Fundraising (3)
 - Fundraising in no USA organizations
- NSF funding
- Would be nice to have a breakout session with these five sessions
 - Non-profits, Universities, Federal Agencies, LTER/NEON, Public Lands vs. not Public Lands
 - Different models, looking for someone like ourselves, self-sorting
- Undergraduate Education/Summer and or REV – best practices, and programming ideas, evaluation, and training.
- Curriculum coordination
- Case studies of successful trans disciplinary collaborative research
- Presentations by development administrations (colleges and universities)
- Need more conversation scheduled down time.
- Wonders if a session on best practices for climate data collections and management would be of use to stations that don't have a climatologist for their weather station programs.
- Becoming the messenger: Recommend offering this again for those who couldn't attend this year. It would be great to offer as a 'workshop' where skills learned could be practiced
- Beyond Sustainability – could be more focused on green renovation of historic buildings, or at least existing buildings.
- Legal Issues – waivers, MOVs
- Getting support from your main campus

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- Running an efficient field station
- Tropical forest monitoring protocols
- Poster session to show what stations are doing – What research topics? Who is working?
- What other stations are doing in monitoring biodiversity
- Appropriate technology—e.g., ground source heating/cooling, cyber-infrastructure, distributed sensors

2) Evaluations of the informational sessions and suggestions as to how often they should be addressed at OBFS meetings:

USEFULNESS	USEFUL	SOMEWHAT	NOT VERY	NA
Beyond Sustainability: Diversifying Field Station use through green infrastructure	54%	6%	0	45%
New Member Stations Orientation to OBFS	45%	6%	0	54%
National Ecological Observatory Network Science Objectives-Interactions with FSML	40%	17%	3%	43%
Becoming the Messenger-How to share science to a broader public audience	37%	6%	0	63%
Conservation case Studies	20%	9%	.06%	71%
Fundraising and Development	57%	6%	11%	31%
Social Media and Website Publishing	45%	9%	0	51%
Aquatic Sensor Technology and data Networks among Biological Stations	14%	6%	3%	83%
OBFS NAML Strategic Plan, Follow Up and Discussion	29%	23%	0	49%

RECOMMENDED FREQUENCY	YEARLY	OCCASIONALLY	RARELY	ONCE WAS ENOUGH	NA
Beyond Sustainability: Diversifying Field Station use through green infrastructure	20%	40%	0	0	43%
New Member Stations Orientation to OBFS	49%	9%	0	0	51%
National Ecological Observatory Network Science Objectives-Interactions with FSML	34%	17%	0	0	51%
Becoming the Messenger-How to share science to a broader public audience	23%	14%	0	0	69%
Conservation case Studies	14%	11%	3%	0	74%
Fundraising and Development	57%	11%		3%	34%
Social Media and Website Publishing	23%	34%	0	0	51%
Aquatic Sensor Technology and data Networks among Biological Stations	3%	14%	0	0	86%

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RECOMMENDED FREQUENCY	YEARLY	OCCASIONALLY	RARELY	ONCE WAS ENOUGH	NA
OBFS NAML Strategic Plan, Follow Up and Discussion	14%	34%	6%	3%	49%

Comments about sessions:

- New Member Stations Orientation to OBFS:
 - Sarah and Eric were great!
 - Sarah Oktay did an awesome job with the new stations session.
- Fundraising and Development:
 - wanted more specific, practical details – more depth, less breadth
 - most helpful session
 - not very useful with chosen speaker, would like it yearly with a speaker that spoke to the masses
 - The development session was most useful and found Emily Cunningham's comments helped me focus some ideas. Emily was an excellent addition – hope she is at SWRS next year.
 - Need more of the development and funding.
- Conservation Case Studies:
 - More quality control
 - Maybe some short abstracts for these in the program
 - Love the case studies – topics should change yearly.
 - Love the case studies – topics should change yearly.
- Social media:
 - Shorten
 - Enjoyed the social media talk- would be good to have more like this. Definitely a yearly talk due to the rapidity of change in this area.
 - Social media session should always be done – maybe add communications component.
- OBFS NAML Strategic Plan, Follow up, and Discussion
 - A bit long

General Comments on sessions:

- Many of the presenters had way too much text on slides – made sessions difficult to stay engaged.
- Very well done. (2)
- Great camaraderie.
- Useful input and advice. (2)
- Informal networking time – the most collegiality experienced at a conference.
- Really liked the concurrent sessions.
- Got a lot out of Beyond Sustainability, Becoming the Messenger, and Social Media practical application, advice, and time for audience questions
- Some sessions used almost all the time on presentations and didn't have much time for questions and discussions.
- Lindsay's talk did not fit the theme.
- Drawback of concurrent sessions is that you can't attend all – try to make choices for concurrent sessions as diverse as possible.
- For larger gatherings, make sure all restroom options are identified, especially for those not staying at the field station lodging.
- Key note address was great.
- The Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition talk was awesome!
- Have the New Facilities slide show session earlier in the meeting. It didn't make sense to the the introductions at the end.
- In general, sessions were too long.
- Loved the scrub walk and the Archbold research lab open house.
- Speaker needed to talk to Directors that do not have a b of d in place.
- Wingfield's NSF talk was dry.
- Not enough networking time when not staying at field station.
- Really liked concurrent sessions.

3) Was the time allocated to the following sessions adequate?

	Too long	Just right	Too short	NA	Adjust time by __ min
New station & facilities session	11%	49%	14%	31%	+30 minutes(3) +15-30 minutes
Field trips	0	57%	11%	37%	Canoe slower!
Concurrent Sessions	3%	77%	6%	20%	+15-30 (for questions, not speaker time)

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					+15 minutes Make some 1hr and others 1.5 hrs
Annual Updates (e.g. FSML, congressional visits, nominations, etc.)	9%	89%	0	9%	
Committee meetings and reports	0	77%	3%	26%	(If new, don't think these were advertised enough.)
OBFS (plenary) business sessions	0	71%	3%	31%	
Informal "networking" time	0	77%	20%	9%	+30 minutes

4) Did you attend any Committee/Subcommittee Meetings? If so, which ones? Did you find them to be well organized and productive?

- Small field stations (6)
 - Great
 - Well organized
 - Amazing diversity, good exchange of information
 - Nice to meet people from other small stations and hear about their programs and facilities
 - Could have been more productive – waited on people to come in from lunch
- Research Coordination Network
 - Well organized and useful
- New members
 - Very useful
- Well organized (3)

5) Please provide any additional specific comments that might help us in organizing future meetings.

- Get Debbie Upp to run/coordinate everything!
- Everything was great! (3)
 - Sarah and Eric were great for interacting with new members
 - Very welcoming and friendly
 - organized
- Night talks were too long
- More topics
- Shorts sessions to fit in more
- Consider including students who can share role of BFS from their perspective as users/interns/coworkers
 - Students could work with host station staff and interns
 - Could have a separate session
- The new station presentations might occur sooner, allowing others to see who is new and offer assistance (4)
- Small stations lunches were helpful

- Need more contact information for participants
- Pace and variety were excellent
- Love the connection with NEON, NAML
- Would love more information on government land practices, policies, especially when meetings are held in the west
- Check dates to avoid Jewish holidays – post dates far in advance
- Need more time for questions/socializing/share data (3)
- Experienced limited meals - was asked diet restrictions but received no further guidance upon arrival
- Reinstate 30 second introductions on first night
- Really enjoyed field trips
 - Post meeting trips would be nice
- Don't hold the auction in room with carpet
- Need more water pressure in dorm showers
- Record key speaker talks on video and make them available on OBFS page
- We should have the new members/facilities slide show near the beginning of the meeting. It helps break the ice for the new folks and veterans. I know I talk to the new folks after I have seen their slides. Further, it provides a chance for people to pose a question or challenge to the group that can be discussed informally throughout the meeting.

6) What services would you like to see OBFS provide, either through its annual meeting or through additional activities, to assist your field station?

- Any help that can be given to international stations would be a good investment.
- Mentorship Program (3)
 - Mentor-mentee match up. Pair new members with experienced members for continued communication after meeting
- Website (3)
 - Place for job postings
 - Place to ask questions about key issues
 - A search tool on the website that could filter stations by size,

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- availability/seasonality, location, co-regions/habitat types, etc.
- Support next generation to attend
- Local and national awareness of need for field stations
- Provide more updates to members – reminders of NSF deadlines
- Do table topics as a concurrent session – fundraising, grad research
- Need to work more at national level with US Forest Service on the issue of research permits and cost recovery

- OBFS organization fund raising
- Sharing field station administration management and research protocols
- Develop a Director's handbook (hard copy and pdf) with advice. Forms, checklists, general information a director needs to know
- We need to be working at the national level with the US Forest Service on the issue of research permits and cost recover

7) Please list a couple of field stations you think should be OBFS members so that we can contact them.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denison University • ACM Field station Ely, MN • El Anglo Hunting Station, Peru • Tiputimi, Ecuador • Mount Verde Field Station, Biological Reserve • Mudumalai Station, India • Centre for Ecological Sciences, India • India Institute of Science, Bangalore • Danum Valley Field Centre, Malaysia • Sabah, Malaysia • Borneo, Malaysia • St. John's Arboretum • Carleton College • St. Olaf College • Hubbard Look LTER Program • Coweata LTER Program • Kitty Todd Preserve of TNC Holland, OH • Black Swamp Bird Observatory Oak Harbor, OH • Niobrara Valley, Nebraska • A small TNC facility in Nebraska off of exit 300 on I-80 west of grand Island • White Mountain Research Center | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCLA • All experimental forests and ranges • Tuckernuck Land Trust – Tuckernuck Island, MA • Avery Point • DANR sites • University of CT • Michigan Tech's new "Ford Center" • Grand Mana Whale and Seabird Research Station • College of the Atlantic has 3 field stations in Maine • Bates College – Morse Mountain an Short Ridge field stations • Can Balasc Barcelona – contact CREA Josep Maria Espelta • New station in Cameroon started by Tom Smith of UCLA • Kemp Station – University of WI Madison • Lytle Ranch BYU • South African National Parks • Some from Galapagos • Some from Mexico • White Mountain Research Center (new name, new campus and new leadership) |
|---|--|

8) In order to help us understand your field station and its needs, we would be interested in the following information:

Previously attended an OBFS meeting?

Yes: 25 No: 12 NA: 0

Field station previously represented at an OBFS meeting?

Yes: 30 No: 5 NA: 1

Was this meeting useful enough to send a representative in the future?

Yes: 31 No: 0 NA: 5

Gender

Female: 13 Male: 23 NA:

Highest degree:

PhD: 19 MS/MA: 12 BS/BA: 3 MD: Other: ABD (1) NA:

Job Title:

Director (10)
 Director and Associate Professor of Biology
 Coordinator
 Director of Administration

Future Director
 Co-Director (2)
 Organizer
 Superintendent, National Park, Liaison to FS

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Research Scientist
Reserve Director
Managing Director
Assistant Director
Associate Director (3)
Founding Coordinator
Station Manager

Resident Director (2)
Circuit Rider
Site Manager
Project Director
Senior Scientist
Director and Assoc. Professor (2)

Field Station Status

Operated by a college or university: 20
Stand-alone not for profit: 5
Operated as part of a larger not for profit: 1
Operated by a museum:
Other:
• N60

- San Diego Zoo Global in Partnership with Peruvian Park Service
- Consortium
- Experimental Forest
- University through partnership with National Park (2)

Field Station Programs:

1. Research, Education, Conservation
2. Research, Education, Outreach (8)
3. Research, Education, Demonstration
4. Research, Education, Ecotourism
5. Research, Education, Monitoring Biodiversity
6. Research, Restoration, Human-wildlife coexistence, conservation education
7. Research, Public Education, Management
8. Research, Education (college and k-12), Land Management (2)
17. , Research, Conservation, Environmental Ethics and Sustainability

9. Research, Education (6)
10. Education
11. Research, Education, Management (5)
12. Research, Undergraduate Training, Public Outreach
13. Research, Education, Management, Outreach, Art
14. Research, Teaching, Outreach
15. In-house research programs, Environmental Education, College classes
16. Learning

Is educational use of your station

Increasing: 20 Decreasing: 1 Stable: 9 NA: 4

Is research use of your station

Increasing: 18 Decreasing: 3 Stable: 10 NA: 4

Is funding for your station

Increasing: 8 Decreasing: 4 Stable: 15 NA: 4
Comments: No funding (1)

What is the primary challenge your organization is facing?

- Fundraising/Funding (11)
- Maintaining a consistent research group/staff (2)
- Research use by NSF funded scientists
- Support (3)
- Budget cuts
- Fiscal – new campus administration
- Facilities (4)
- Lack of leadership – rotating decision makers within organization
- Interesting the Peruvian Park Service to collaborate and put more time to promote research within National Parks
- Personal support from campus, overcoming constraints of isolation
- beginning, starting, coordinating (3)
- Growth and Development – stability of money and limited money
- Mission and geography are expanding while staff is being downsized
- Managing growth and strategies planning
- Bringing in more science and research
- Balancing relationship between station needs and university needs
- Set up costs
- Limited staff
- Working with the National Parks and the University
- Increase use of station by researchers
- Challenges created from partnership with National Park Service

Overall/Miscellaneous Comments about 2012 Meeting:

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- Excellent food except vegetarian options were limited
- Excellent staff!
- New building – all room lights are connected to sensor making it difficult to read in bed
- East Lecture hall screen is too low – could not see bottom 25%
- AC units outside too loud
- Buildings were wonderful – porches great!

Congressional Visit Day - OBFS with AIBS (American Institute of Biological Sciences) 2012

Mark Stromberg

AIBS hosted a variety of biologists in a two-day effort to inform various senators and congress members about field stations and to help deliver the message that through supporting the National Science Foundation, better science and education can be improved at field stations.

OBFS had several members attend March 28 and 29, 2012. On the first day, AIBS staff, led by Julie Palakovich Carr held a half day training session in Washington, D.C. We went through a training to give background on how legislation

worked, at least in theory. Congress was (and still is!) at an impasse on passing real budgets. But, we argued for an increase in NSF funding. We were able to throw in a few bits of support for our individual field stations. On the second day, we visited our congressional staff as individuals, or with local university representatives. Some universities have staff assigned to Washington, D.C. OBFS members involved included Jan Hodder, OIMB; Chris Lorentz, Thomas More College; David Biesboer, Itasca; Jennifer Johnson, Seville/UNM; and Ann Rypstra, AERC.

Mark is organizing a group for April 10-11 this year. Contact him at Mark.Stromberg@gmail.com for further details.

Minutes of the 2012 Board of Directors Meetings

OBFS Board of Directors Meeting Conference Call March 15, 2012 – 1:00 pm (EST)

In Attendance: Ian Billick, Philippe Cohen, Brian Kloeppel, Deedra McClearn, Art McKee, Eric Nagy, Sarah Oktay, Gwen Pearson, Mark Schulze, Bill Schuster, Karie Slavik, Greg Smith, David White

Meeting Action Items:

- send 2011 Annual Meeting Minutes changes to Smith (Cohen)
- approve corrected Annual Meeting Minutes via email (Smith)
- work on transition to new officers (Billick to Schuster; Smith to Oktay)
- review and fill committee positions and officers (Kloeppel and Billick)
- review alternative to PayPal for online payments (Cohen and Pearson)
- prepare draft agenda for 2012 Annual Meeting (Slavik)
- plan development event at 2012 Annual meeting (Schuster and Oktay)
- locate potential field stations near the Everglades (McKee)

1.) Approval of Minutes from December 5, 2011 Board Meeting (Smith)

Motions:

-- MOTION to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2011 Board Meeting was approved unanimously.

Cohen suggested a change in Annual Meeting Minutes. Cohen is modifying a section. Smith will then send the minutes out for an email vote.

2.) Discussion of Transition to New Officers (Billick)

Billick and Schuster have already begun to discuss the transition to President, and Smith and Oktay will work on the transition to Secretary. Schuster suggested having a document that could be passed from old to new officers. Billick and Schuster will work on such a document that can be passed from President-to-President.

3.) Discussion of Committee Appointments (Kloeppel and Schuster)

Billick suggested consideration of a standing committee that would be responsible for identifying candidates for service on committees, in particular chairs of those committees. Nagy clarified that the by-laws put that task on the officers. Billick

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recommended identifying a single person that would be responsible for organizing this. Kloeppel asked about the timing of new committee chairs. There was disagreement on whether the Annual Meeting is the best place to identify these people. The Past-President will be responsible for this task. Kloeppel will “clean-up” the current slate of chairs and formalize the process. Billick will then be responsible for this task during his tenure as Past-President. Kloeppel asked for a specific role in OBFS so that he could justify travel funds for the Annual Meeting from his department. Kloeppel will follow-up with the current committee chairs to see if they are still willing/interested in serving. The Executive Committee will have a conference call to approve these recommendations. Nagy mentioned that there is some flexibility in assigning individuals to roles on the Board. Oktay mentioned that the Member Support Committee is missing from the OBFS Governance page.

4.) Discussion of Recruitment of New Officers (Schuster and Billick)

The Annual Meeting is a good time to discuss this. Coming up next year is Vice-President, Treasurer, and one At-Large position. The nominations committee is chaired by the Past-President. Schuster suggested the Vice-President, Past-President, and Editor serve in this capacity. Kloeppel suggested emailing the membership to solicit interest and ask for bio. sketches by the Saturday evening of the Annual Meeting. White said that this worked well. Billick also suggested some advanced thought about people who might serve can help fine-tune the process. Billick would like to see potential officers identified well in advance of the Annual Meeting. For this year, Billick will deal with officer solicitations in his role as Past-President.

5.) Financial Items (Cohen)

Elimination of a CD may not be necessary to bump-up the checking account balance. Cash flow is good at the moment, especially due to the inclusion of auction proceeds. Memberships expire on January 5 of each year. Schuster asked about lists of member stations that lapsed more than a year ago. Cohen indicated that this is available but disorganized without information on when their membership lapsed. The budget now includes a tab with recently expired memberships so that we can discuss their memberships if we meet any of them. Turnover of station personnel has a lot to do with lapsed memberships. We are down about 10-15 members compared with last year. Oktay and McKee will work on contacting recently lapsed memberships. The MemberClicks database is live so information can be pulled in “real-time.” The cost of MemberClicks has doubled because of fees for online payments. Cohen and Billick will send information to Oktay on lapsed memberships and potential new members. Cohen suggested investigating an alternative to PayPal, a vendor that has lower fees for service. Cohen

and Pearson will do this. A new service would also allow the potential for live collection of payments during the auction using an iPad.

6.) Update on Strategic Planning (Billick)

The Phase II survey will be released soon. The questions were kept to a minimum so as not to drive down the return rate. The survey should take 20-30 minutes to complete. Completion of the report has been delayed but will be coming soon as well. The Steering Committee will meet in April to discuss the survey results and recommendations that came out of the workshop. Their meeting will inform the report. Schuster has been added as a member of the Steering Committee. The draft report should be completed by the OBFS and National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML) annual meetings.

7.) Update on Annual Meeting (Slavik)

Archbold has a webpage ready to go for the meeting - <http://www.archbold-station.org/station/documents/temp/obfs2012.html> . Slavik and Hilary Swain are going to be working on a draft agenda over the next week or so. Slavik will keep Billick and Schuster in-the-loop as work progresses on the meeting. Kloeppel offered his help because he will be visiting Archbold in April. Schuster asked about webcasting. Slavik will check with Archbold to see if that is possible. The theme is, “Full STEAM Ahead: building bridges between science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics at our field stations.”

8.) Discussion of 2012 Development Event (Schuster)

Schuster hopes to have a similar event as last year. Oktay and others are working on getting Jimmy Buffett for the event, although this has not been confirmed. Schuster has a back-up artist in mind that could work next week as well. There may be some options to pay for Jimmy Buffett instead of asking him to do a free concert. We might need to promote the role of OBFS stations in helping with things like controlling invasive species, or something he can latch onto and support. McKee will look for contacts at stations that might be involved with work in the Everglades. Billick asked about the invitee list. Oktay, Schuster, and Swain are working on that. Most of the list will come from Archbold’s development staff.

9.) Schedule for Next Board of Directors Conference Call (Billick)

The next BOD meeting was not scheduled but should be held in June.

10.) Other Items

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Pearson will give Oktay access to the OBFS webpage so that she can upload documents. Pearson has received lots of positive and helpful feedback on the website.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Smith, Secretary

The meeting adjourned at 2:02 pm (EST).

Official Secretary Notes OBFS Board of Directors Meeting Conference Call June 1, 2012 – 3:00 pm (EST)

In Attendance: Ian Billick, Brian Kloeppel, Deedra McClearn, Sarah Oktay, Gwen Pearson, Mark Schulze, Bill Schuster, Karie Slavik, Greg Smith, David White, Stacy McNulty
Absent: Philippe Cohen, Art McKee, Eric Nagy

Meeting Action Items:

- Provide archived minutes and OBFS files (Smith and White)
- Everyone should review draft annual meeting agenda
- Kloeppel will follow up with Hilary Swain regarding an event at 2012 Meeting
- Schuster will draft a letter to send to new and former stations asking them to join OBFS
- Group effort to collate lists of current and potential members.

Carryover Action items from previous meeting

- President transition document from Billick to Schuster
- Contacting lapsed members and suggestions of new ones (McKee/Oktay)
- Switching from PayPal to another system

1.) Approval of Minutes from March 15, 2012 (Oktay)

Motions:

-- MOTION (by Billick) to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2012 Board Meeting (conference call) with minor grammatical corrections was approved unanimously.

Smith will make sure Oktay has all archived Newsletters and Annual Reports. White may be providing some archived material as well.

2.) Schedule next meeting (Schuster)

Next Board of Directors conference call meeting is scheduled for August 31st at 3:00 pm EST. Kloeppel asked to be included in email list of recipients to participate in the call.

3.) Review and Approve agenda (Schuster)

No changes.

4.) Approve Bylaw changes voted on by members last fall (Nagy)

Bylaw changes were approved by the membership on the 2011 ballot; therefore, there is no need for approval by BOD.

5.) Update on 2012 Annual Meeting (Slavik, McNulty, Schuster, Oktay)

Draft agenda has been circulated, and the website including the draft agenda and registration is up at <http://www.archbold-station.org/station/documents/temp/obfs2012.html>. There will be three concurrent sessions; only one more solicitation for session ideas will be sent to the membership. McClearn asked if folks were interested in program assessment (similar to the one used at the University of Michigan Biological Station meeting); she will make up a handout on program assessment. Other assessments of interest to all members are welcome.

McNulty updated us on the Diversity award; some votes are in, but she will wait a day or two longer for additional votes before compiling results. Presentation will be short and will be Friday evening at the Annual Meeting.

6.) Discussion of 2012 Development Event (Oktay, Kloeppel, Billick)

Briefly discussed options for the Friendraiser event. Oktay has not been able to enlist Jimmy Buffett due to death in the family of the go-between. Hilary Swain does have a connection with Carl Hiaasen, and she has a development person who can assist us. Hilary felt Paul Winter may not have enough name recognition to draw people all the way out to Archbold. In addition to the challenge of getting a "big name" is the extra work involved in doing a Friend/Fund raiser at same time as the annual meeting. It takes lots of coordination, which went well at Jasper Ridge but did take a lot of effort and assistance from Cohen and the Jasper Ridge staff. Maybe we should consider doing it out of sync with the annual meeting at locations conducive to fundraising (Miami, Boston, NYC, CA). Kloeppel will follow-up with Swain.

7.) 2013 Annual Meeting at Southwestern Research Station SRWS (Slavik)

No new updates on the building timeline; they are planning on hosting the meeting and will make a presentation at the annual meeting.

8.) 2014 Joint Meeting with National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML) (Billick, Kloeppel)

Do we want to have a joint meeting with NAML? In the past we have not pursued much in the way of formal interactions except for our joint NSF grant and the attendance of the OBFS president at the NAML annual meeting. They have their meeting every other year, and 2014 is not a meeting year. We discussed the pros and cons of a joint meeting. The timing would be close to the 50 anniversary for OBFS. A joint meeting could strengthen connections between the organizations. Although the two meetings tend to be very different, it might be useful to explore combining them and with the use of concurrent sessions that would allow there to be a lot of participants in the space while being flexible with topics. Billick wrote both Friday Harbor and the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) to see if they would be interesting in hosting a larger joint meeting. Billick said MBL wrote back that they could do it either the 21-24 of September or the 7-10 of October, 2014. Would it be better to do it on a weekend to include more teachers? One challenge is the size of the event. We would need to accommodate at least 150-175; not many facilities have that kind of room. Billick will check the dates and see if it conflicts with holidays (Rosh Hashanah). There was general agreement that it was worthwhile to pursue having a joint meeting with NAML at the Marine Biological Lab in Woods Hole, MA.

9.) Update on Strategic Planning (Billick)

The **Strategic Planning** steering committee, [Ian Billick, Brian Kloeppel, James Sanders, Hilary Swain, Jan Hodder, Ivar Babb, Jo-Ann C. Leong met in April to discuss the survey results and recommendations that came out of the workshop. The draft report should be completed by the time of the OBFS and NAML annual meetings, and it will be presented at the OBFS annual meeting. In addition to the final report, the group produced a workshop report and the results of a survey that plug into the final report. There were lots of recommendations that came out of the process such as the idea of a joint NAML/OBFS meeting. They would like to have as much feedback and consensus as possible.

10.) New Member Drive (Schuster)

There are lots of significant stations that are not members including many international stations. McKee and Oktay are working on a list of potential and recently lapsed stations to

call. Many of us have an idea of which stations in our regions don't belong, and we should submit those names to the new member committee. Peter McCartney (NSF) agrees whatever effort we put into this is worthwhile for increasing our clout and for fundraising. We discussed whether we should create a new member committee; both Oktay and McClearn offered to help. McClearn received a message from a field station in India; she asked them to forward their CV and information on the station to her for review. For the 2012 annual meeting we have two registrations factored into the cost (but not airfares). Schuster said there is \$1000.00 set aside from a previous year for international travel support. Schultz mentioned that we should have an application process. In the past we have allowed 1-2 people to review the requests for registration waivers and use their best judgment. McClearn can send out an open solicitation in which those who apply understand the full cost, and she and Schuster will review the applications. McNulty suggested that we offer two \$500.00 travel awards. Some discussion on whether it was better to be vaguer about the total available and just respond to requests. We need a database of members. Schultz will help develop the new station list and will include whatever information all of us have from other lists. We also need a statement of the top ten reasons to join OBFS; in other words we should put into writing the benefits of membership. Action item: Schuster will take a stab at writing a letter asking stations to join. Cohen, Pearson, Oktay, McClearn and Schultz will collate our current lists.

11.) Financial report (Schuster for Cohen)

Second Quarter, no change; Q3 about to close; Cohen will update. \$28,000.00 budget for 2012; in the past it has been \$24,000.00; we often run a small surplus of \$2,000.00 before the annual auction. After the second quarter, we have \$57,000 in our operating balance and restricted reserves of approximately \$117,000. We are not at the point where we can fund a staff position, but we are building up some reserves. We should be able to stay on budget.

12.) Other items (Schuster)

Billick mentioned that he and Ivar Babb went to DC to meet with John Winfield and Liz Blood at NSF to talk about the joint NAML/OBFS FSML strategic planning process.

The meeting adjourned at 4:04 pm (EST).

Respectfully submitted, August 27, 2012

Approved with amendments and minor correction, August 31, 2012

Sarah Oktay, Secretary

**OBFS Board of Directors Meeting
Conference Call
August 31, 2012 – 3:00 pm (EST)**

In Attendance: Ian Billick, Brian Kloeppel, Deedra McClearn, Sarah Oktay, Gwen Pearson, Mark Schulze, Bill Schuster, Karie Slavik, David White, Stacy McNulty, Eric Nagy
Absent: Philippe Cohen, Jerald Bosch, Art McKee

Meeting Action Items:

- Slavik will find a time slot or location for Rebecca Koskela to update us on DataOne.
- We need to ask Cohen at the annual meeting (Sunday's wrap up meeting) what would be appropriate regarding the availability (public versus private) of our financial information that is currently in the annual report.
- Make annual report public minus any sensitive information.
- Schuster will email everyone a copy of the exit survey.
- McClearn will let Slavik know which lunch session works for meeting new international members.
- Billick will send an email that says we have three Board openings, Vice President, Treasurer and Member at Large, need that nominations by Sunday of the annual meeting.
- Everyone should look at website and check for issues.
- Everyone should nominate new people for open Board positions.
- Schuster will finalize new solicitation letter for new stations.
- Schulze and Oktay will compile lists of lapsed members.
- Everyone should review FSML draft report and give suggestions to steering committee.

1.) Approval of Minutes from June 1, 2012:

Motions:

-- MOTION (by Schuster) to approve the minutes of the June 1st, 2012 Board Meeting (conference call): minutes were approved unanimously with minor corrections.

2.) Schedule next meeting (Schuster):

Our next BOD meeting will be at the annual meeting: September 19 at 6 PM EST and September 23 at 10-12 AM EST; subsequent BOD meeting proposed for Monday December 3 at 3 PM EST (Schuster).

3.) Review and Approve agenda (Schuster):

No changes.

4.) Update on 2012 meeting :

The meeting agenda is available at http://www.archbold-station.org/station/documents/temp/documents/2012OBFSAgenda-Draft-forweb_07302012_000.pdf.

NOTE: the ride share information is also online.

(agenda update by Karie Slavik; Research Coordination Network (RCN) agenda update by Deedra. McClearn; Human Diversity Award- McNulty).

McClearn asked if we wanted a DataOne session at the annual meeting? Bill Michener can't come, but Rebecca Koskela can come. Should we give her a chance to tell us about the updates during the NEON/LTER session? Is the meeting schedule too full? Would this be during the concurrent session or during a plenary? Koskela is standing by to do anything we would like her to do. Slavik will talk to Debbie Upp and Swain about fitting her in (perhaps even at a lunch table discussion).

Nagy sent everyone an email about access to Google Docs and updating and organizing our files. He and Pearson have been trying to develop a wiki site. Their progress so far: currently there are some minutes and financial information that can be viewed. They are working to get the policy and procedures manual up, and members can click on Editing to access the links. Nagy will add members to the wiki that will allow each to access uploaded archives and minutes. The wiki will provide some consistency in accessing files. Nagy had a question regarding why some items are private on the main website such as newsletters and annual reports?

A discussion ensued on the pros and cons and reasons why some items such as individual names and emails and financial information may need to be private. Schuster stated that he thought annual reports should be public, general agreement. Pearson suggested that we have two versions, and executive summary version minus any sensitive information for the public and a full version for members. We should check with Cohen on what we can include in the public document. Billick said we could always make it available on request, but he prefers to err on the side of disclosure. Our 990 tax form is a public document. Group decided to solicit Cohen's opinion at Archbold on Sunday regarding financial disclosures.

Slavik: 2012 meeting agenda: All speakers are confirmed, and agenda online is up to date. 105 participants are registered. It is okay to keep a waiting list (or whenever they feel they are full). Any questions on meeting? Keynote speaker is Carlton Ward Jr., Conservation Photographer, with Joe Guthrie, Research Biologist.

Schuster: Rideshare, everyone should make sure people know about it. So far it is working very well.

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McClearn asked if there is room to fit in a short presentation by some of the international stations that are coming from new locations such as Panama, Peru, and India. Schuster: how about a lunch session - that would be a good solution? McClearn will let Slavik know which lunch session. McClearn will provide two quick committee reports on Saturday morning at the committee report session, one on what the international committee is up to and one on the RCN occurring in tandem with the annual meeting.

McNulty won't be there to present the Human Diversity Award so Amy Whipple will announce the award instead. Schuster has the exit survey to tweak and hand out. Did anyone have anything to add? He will send it out for us to review. New this year, we will be able to take credit cards at annual auction.

5.) Board nominations and committee chairs (Billick):

Half a dozen spots are open. Kloeppel is the chair of Organizational Development. The term is for one year (typically a calendar year). Normally the Executive Committee stays on at the end of the December BOD conference call to determine chairmanships for the following year. Positions up for nomination are Member at Large; Vice President, and Treasurer. Billick needs to make sure there is at least one person per spot.

In summary, Billick will send an email out that says we have three openings and need nominations by Sunday of the annual meeting. Kloeppel said that worked well last year to have ballot ready by that Saturday with everyone's pictures and bios. At the December meeting, we will have a discussion about these positions. Talked about which positions were board selected versus elected. Board selected officers are the Network Coordinator and Editor that will need to be renewed. White: what is the status of his term? White is currently editor through 2014 (2012-2014). Pearson's appointment is up at the end of this year. We could nominate her for an additional term 2013-2015. We will update everyone at the December conference call meeting.

International committee: Carlos de la Rosa is the new station director at La Selva. McLearn is suggesting that he be the new chair. Everyone else (Nagy, Oktay Bosch, Kloeppel) will continue in their positions. McNulty will look for someone to replace her on the Human Diversity Committee - happy to share the love. Peter Connor will sit on the Finance (subcommittee) again. The 2013 Annual Meeting Committee is the VP (chairs) + Dawn Wilson + Pres (Schuster).

Nagy said that 2-3 people are defined as nominating committing at the annual meeting. Does Billick (past president) want 1-2 people to work with him? Ian feels this is a pretty straight forward process. Billick will be central clearinghouse of everyone who wants to run for Treasurer,

Vice President, or Member at Large. At the beginning of the meeting, talk with Billick if you have ideas or to self-nominate; and talk with Slavik about VP nominations (or talk to current officers). Schuster does not feel we need a formal committee. Billick said that all of us should try and recruit or feel free to recruit. He will make sure we have a minimum slate.

Nagy will take the opportunity to ask us to look at the website and check for issues; everyone's action item

5.) Discussion of 2013 meeting (SWRS, Slavik) and 2014 meeting (Joint with NAML at Woods Hole, Billick):

The 2013 meeting is scheduled for 2013 Sept 18-21 at the Southwestern Research Station (SWRC) in Portal AZ; no other updates; Dawn Wilson is presenting information at this year's annual meeting.

The 2014 joint meeting is scheduled for Woods Hole with NAML. Dates up in the air but probably 21-24 of September (Sunday through a Wednesday).

2015 meeting prospects and beyond: some potential hosts but probably should see how the joint meeting goes; we may not want to do a joint meeting every year.

6.) Update on Strategic Plan (final draft attached; Billick):

Schuster included a copy of the most recent draft. Billick will tell us about that and the timeline. They have circulated drafts of survey final report and workshop, and they would like feedback on the final report. There will be a presentation at the annual meeting and a follow up discussion; they wish to solicit feedback through September. They plan to finalize the report in October (will include a 1-2 page abstract and a full report). Billick encouraged everyone to look at the final report and email him or any steering committee members. Billick and Ivar Babb will walk people through the report at the meeting and will describe main outcomes. Scheduled Saturday afternoon 1-2:30; for off-site access, gotomeeting.com.

7.) New member drive (Schuster):

New member drive: on Schuster's to do list is to draft a new solicitation letter and compile list; Schuster will finalize it by the annual meeting. Cohen has the current and lapsed list. Sonda has one list and Schulze just got the list from the FSML planning effort. Schulze and Oktay will combine lists.

8.) Financial report (Schuster for Cohen):

\$50,000 operating balance

\$114,000 in restricted funds

These are correct numbers; we lost some \$\$ somewhere.

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Includes expenditures on operations and our investments went down a bit.

Income \$28,000.

Expenses \$13,000 through Q3 out of the \$28,000.

We should have some savings because we are no longer utilizing PayPal. We now use Lula that specializes in non-profits; they are another large corporation, but it is possible to get an actual person on the phone. Kloeppel had a question regarding Congressional Visit Day; \$5500 budgeted; spent \$2,575; is that because people attending were close to DC or requested less travel or was there a low turnout? We'll ask Mark Stromberg. Diversity travel award \$1000; only spent \$33.00 last year; may be because Sagehen won and it wasn't too far for them to travel

Update on the number of station who have paid:

187 paid.

22 paid individual,

53 who have not re-upped,

9.) New item (Fundraising):

Kloeppel brought up the possibility of having them separated, hold fundraiser at a different location and time from the annual meeting. Last year we held a friend-raising at Jasper Ridge the Sunday of the annual meeting. Unfortunately the timing of the annual meeting (September) is bad to have a group of folks there in Florida; Swain is willing to host in January or February instead; she felt uncomfortable organizing until we brought it to the board. Would board support us hosting an annual friend-raising or fundraising event separate from annual meetings? Normally all of us would have no extra costs; there would be some investment from Board. Would Board need us to break even, make a minimum profit, or gain? Schuster thinks we should do this. Kloeppel agrees that we could vary the location around the country with a West coast event (perhaps in Southern

California) one year and a Florida or Northeast event (NYC or Boston) another year. Place and timing; want to gear up when we are hosting the meeting at Woods Hole in 2014; should be a true fundraiser event. We will discuss this more at Archbold, fundraising is on the agenda.

10.) Other items/New business:

McNulty: one suggestion: McNulty wants to Skype in so she can participate.

She also would like us to work on encouraging student representation: perhaps actively solicit Early Career person; what is the next generation going to do? Is there an appropriate position to have a junior member in order to harness energy of younger people. Do we advertise for this, call for it; seek nominations? How do we go about doing it? We don't see a lot of younger members; timing is tough (in school or in class). We should present this idea to the membership and allow for nominations from the membership. Kloeppel really likes the idea; a graduate student; might have more context and flexibility to travel to a meeting; key if they are at a field station where another person is attending the annual meeting; don't know how we go about identifying these people? "Whippersnapper award" Should solicit nominations; perhaps offer a small travel grant.

Perhaps a good idea for human diversity group to do; should be an agenda item at Archbold.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm (EST).

Respectfully submitted, Sept 4th, 2012.

Approved, September 23, 2012

Sarah Oktay, Secretary

Board of Directors Meeting

Archbold Biological Station

Wednesday September 19th 2012 6:00-8:00 PM

In Attendance: Ian Billick, Brian Kloeppel, Deedra McClearn, Sarah Oktay, Gwen Pearson, Mark Schulze, Bill Schuster, Karie Slavik, Stacy McNulty (Skype)

Absent: Philippe Cohen, Art McKee, David White

Audience: Robert Foulkes, Jerald Dosch, Robin Johnson

Meeting Action Item:

Schuster will write up a recruitment letter for new members.

1.) Approval of Minutes from August 31st (Oktay)

Approved by voice vote with minor corrections

2.) Schedule next BOD meeting (Schuster)

10:00 AM Sunday, September 23rd

3.) Review and Approve agenda (Schuster)

Approved by voice vote

4.) Financial Update (deferred- Cohen)

5.) Update on 2012 Annual Meeting (Schuster, Slavik)

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We have northward of 110 people attending, which is a record.

We need to solicit nominations for open positions (Vice President, Treasurer, and Member at Large); nominations are due Sunday; Schuster and Kloeppel will announce Thursday night and throughout the conference that we are soliciting nominations. (Note: Standing Committee positions are appointed at the December meeting);

Does anyone have any issues with the joint Research Coordination Networks RCN meeting led by McClearn that will be held all day Thursday and maybe a concurrent session on Saturday? - No.

Bill Michner could not be here so Rebecca Koskela will give an hour update on DataOne from last year. The Northern Arizona University NAU site review starts on Sunday at 1:00 so we should end our meeting Sunday in time for people to attend that.

Nagy: Committee reports (Development, Outreach member support, web, governance, etc) are shoehorned into the business meeting occurring 8:00-9:00 AM on Saturday. The gong and gavel are here.

McClearn mentioned an NSF grant given to Bryan Heidorn designed to provide hardware, software, and IT services to the long tail of NSF grant recipients who are in the less than the 5 million dollar grant category. NSF wants to help those people who don't have access to full time IT people.

6.) New member recruitment drive (Schuster)

Discussed ways to determine which stations did not renew, or if new stations have joined. How do we figure out who did not renew? Pearson: as soon as your membership expires you will get 2 reminders; eventually each station will have 5 electronic reminders to renew their membership. The catch is this all assumes we have the right email address to send it to. Let's discuss this more on Sunday. Big peak in renewals in February; how do we fix this and round up the ones who do not renew? Best thing is to call them; just need to do it. Very important to ask new members to offer up new people, new names, and new stations. We all need to think of people/stations in our region that should be members of OBFS and are not. Schuster - action item: he will write a very convincing letter illustrating how many members we have added each year; it is very empowering to people to see how it is increasing.

7.) Update on Strategic Plan: OBFS/NAML (Billick)

Billick: does anyone have any questions or comments regarding the strategic plan? He will continue to take input

through the 30th. He encourages people to look at the web site and look at the draft report. Billick recently sent an email describing the online session and the plenary and breakout on the strategic plan here at the meeting; Schuster, Kloeppel, Billick, Ivar Babb, and Swain are on the committee.

8.) 2013 Annual Meeting at South West Research Station (Slavik)

Brief review of next year's meeting. Dawn Wilson will be here to give us more information

9.) 2014 Joint Meeting with NAML (Billick, Kloeppel)

Next year (2014) meeting will be a joint meeting with NAML in Woods Hole, MA; days will be different: Sunday to Wednesday.

Slavik has copies of old meeting proposals; we need to share those with people as to why it might be helpful to host. Oktay: have ever tracked how it has helped field stations (assuming it has) to host a meeting? Answer: not really. We announce hosting opportunities at the annual meeting. Slavik reminded us that there is a list of criteria for hosting an annual meeting, and Bodega Bay put together a document on how to survive hosting a meeting. Slavik will provide an application guide and past proposals, and she is available to talk about it and collect proposals. Billick thinks we might want to think about co-hosting with NAML every 2 years; we decided to see how the first joint meeting with Woods Hole goes. Mel Dean: is there a general schedule on when we host it out of the country? No problem unless travel is prohibitive; what percentage of our members are international? We can find out/calculate how many of our members are international.

10.) Discussion of 2012 Development Event (Oktay, Kloeppel, Billick)

Kloeppel would like at least to mention it; Oktay, Swain, and Kloeppel did a lot of work for an event this year but could not get the entertainment in time for this meeting; Swain thought it was a poor model to do both meeting and development event at the same time; trying to get people in September in FL is a bad idea she was willing to host a friend raiser in January either in Archbold or in Miami. There would be some cost involved. Would OBFS be willing to pay for some investment in travel costs? Do we need to raise enough funds to cover the costs? Need to decide what amount of money we should set aside for development. Swain was not comfortable going forward until we got some feedback. Several members support allocating money to a development effort. Billick mentioned that we need to determine what we want to achieve:

- 1) Fundraising (friendraising) training event?

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- 2) Monetary goal?
- 3) Building to a base of donors nationally?
- 4) Fundraising for staffed office?

What are we trying to create a staffed office or staffed position? Need a larger budget to do this. We could aim to have a significant event in coordination with 2014 Woods Hole meeting. Between now and then we could try to hold 1-2 more friend-raising type events. For the development committee we should enlist people who fund raise all the time; maybe hold an event for training and include anyone who is interested. Swain has a development person on staff; happy to have them help but protective of her time. Schuster; how about other field stations in Florida? We need a tangible objective; set some kind of major gift level; for instance join as a private level at \$2500 level; early on we need to see if we should solicit bigger donors and focus on having a well-defined and easy to explain "ask".

Kloeppel: if there is general support, we should form a committee to bring back a proposal. Schuster volunteered to be on the campaign. Nagy: DC is complicated but could be great- could ask for help from the AIBS with logistics; lots of places to hold the event like the National Press Club; Pew Endowment headquarters; price for attending the event; that is the goal; brand that amount. What would be our aim for a capital campaign? - ballpark is \$200 K. Dean: is the staffing for a development coordinator? Schuster: the staff person ideally would have many duties; liaison, executive director, run an office. One more idea: a campaign in 2014 to raise funds for this staff person to reach out to lists or mailing lists to all our field stations; NAML is trying to hire a full time staff person; let's make a push.

Discussed various other fundraising methods such as Kickstarter; Petri dish (lots of capital investment), Science seeker, Rocket hub, Indie Go Go. Pearson felt it was instructive to look at sites where venture capital has been invested.

Motion made by Eric Nagy to have a formal development committee formed, seconded and passed unanimously Kloeppel will lead that effort.

Adjourned at 8:42 PM

Board of Director's meeting (continued)

Sunday, September 23rd

9:35 AM

In Attendance: Stacy McNulty, Bill Schuster, Gwen Pearson, Brian Kloeppel, Philippe Cohen, Ian Billick, Karie Slavik, Sarah Oktay, Eric Nagy, Mark Schultz,

Absent: David White, Jerald Dosch

Audience: Ed Boyer, Paul Foster, Mel Dean, Mark Stromberg

Meeting Action Items (Full descriptions in text):

- Will put topic of defining restricted funds into 2013 annual meeting agenda.
- Cohen will circulate budget for approval
- Kloeppel will summarize development notes and budget and fundraising goals and send out a straw man document for review
- Schulze will collate all lists into a master list for contacting members and increasing membership
- Pearson will put documents for joint editing on Google Docs
- Kloeppel will talk to Peter McCartney about options such as RCN or a new grant proposal
- Nagy will follow-up on Conflict of Interest Forms

Actions Taken/Motions Made and Approved (descriptions below):

- Agenda Approved
- Added funding to cover the cost of travel for an early career meeting attendant/potential board member
- Minutes from August 31st were adopted as amended. Moved and approved.

1.) Financial Report (Cohen)

Philippe changed it to a total of \$5500 to organizational development. Do we want it separated out as a separate line item or are we fine with it rolled up. Schuster would rather break it out. Separate row for strategic plan. Schuster and Kloeppel think we need \$5000 to cover travel; separate event not associated with South West Research Station (SWRS).

Probably project a deficient for the budget that could be covered by reserves. We all should be clear with projecting a 5-6 thousand dollar shortfall. So changed our forecasted budget from \$28 K to \$33K; this allows the 5-6 thousand dollars for travel stipends. What process do we want to put in place to advertise it and process the applications? Do we need a committee? Put application on the website, how do we advertise? Paul Foster and McClearn would have insights on how to do it. Schuster will send out an email to Cohen, McClearn, Carlos de la Rosa, and Paul Foster proposing a \$6000 line item.

McNulty introduced the idea of providing an incentive for a grad student or young career person to come to the meeting. She supports bringing in that demographic in an early career stage. Should also have a student on the board, or at the meeting, or both. She is looking for an elected position or appointed to come to the meetings to be a conduit to a broader group of people. She is looking for both \$\$ and a

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place at the table. Travel line for \$1000? We will put that into the budget for now. Cohen has a line item called non-board of director's travel; we voted as a group to assign the cost of this incentive to that line item.

Action Item/Board Vote: Added funding to cover the cost of travel for an early career meeting attendant/potential board member

Next question, how do we solicit applicants from the membership? Would we need a committee? Elected or appointed? Would need to be appointed by the board. Swain brought up that GLEON (Global Lake Ecological Observatory) has something like this that is very successful. Could diversity committee take this up? Absolutely! Sounds reasonable to think of this as being a board appointed rep to the board. Main thing is a deadline, some marketing, and a committee. A station could nominate students.

Any other items on the budget; move to adopt it? Or add items? Cohen will add items that we discussed, he will send it out to us to review in the next few days.

Billick; we have an item called restricted funds that are not really restricted. Cohen: they should be used for program development; an important distinction. If it is permanently restricted the Board can change it with a vote of the membership to approve it (originally a vote to set it up by the membership). Billick suggests that we set up a note to describe what that is. Do we use it to jumpstart the staff person or will it be used as an endowment? Designed to fund special projects, this would qualify, but we would want to take a vote. Don't want to wait 6 months or a year to access. Want the membership to approve in general form how to use it. Want membership to be behind the decision. Needs a vote; formalities of the proposal can be fleshed out. Put on the agenda for next year to bring up at the annual meeting. Big enough pot of money to really think about it.

Action item: put this topic (defining use of restricted funds) on next year's agenda.

Oktay will circulate original language, which should be in minutes after 2012. Can we find the information to send around about the original designation for this restricted funding? We will dig up a full description of these funds and bring to the entire group so it is open for discussion. Details from development committee can add to that.

Short discussion on when to introduce it to the members as a whole and how. When to schedule it, plenary or not. Will take a membership vote, so should be part of the business meeting. Could bring up at a business meeting and move to have a subset to act on that. Can we share this with the membership before hand? Yes, could do it when we send out announcement of next meeting.

Will wait to adopt budget when everyone has seen a draft.

Action item: Cohen will send it around. He does it as spreadsheets; look at the tab on the bottom for assumptions that shows everyone how he calculates amounts. He will try to include descriptive notes on the far right too. \$2500 fundraising, \$3000 for strategic planning expenses

2.) Report from Development Committee (Kloeppel)

Kloeppel: the board asked him to develop an initial draft of materials. He has drafted something and he can distribute it to the whole board. He has been working with a flexible committee of 6-10 people that has done a lot. Billick, Swain, Schuster, Cohen, Kloeppel, Luke, and Oktay so far. Looking at friend and fundraising events. Talked about doing an annual activity somewhere around the country not associated with an annual meeting; it is too difficult to coordinate doing both for annual meeting host station and some locations are not ideal. Possible locations include Silicon Valley, Boston, NY, Miami. Key component is a list of contacts.

Gear up for an event at Woods Hole or in Boston. Would like to do a 2013 event to train and get ball rolling. Pre-event in Boston in 2013. Swain happy to do something in FL but not sure if that is the right location. He'll send a more refined draft around for those who are interested. We need to have something to achieve which will likely include several objectives. We have introduced a couple of short-term and long-term goals; acquiring a staff person is an immediate short-term goal long-term goals need to be thought out.

We need to develop an explicit case statement especially if we wish to use or leverage restricted funds. Billick had proposed a minimum of \$2500 to support this specific target. Schuster is wondering about networking with the stations and whether we should ask them to produce 1-2 people they know who would be open to supporting this initiative. What does everyone think? Need to clarify "our Ask" and be specific. Need an institutional decision. If we were to use our auctions reserves, that would be our leverage/match? When fundraising, showing that we have latching or leveraged fund indicates that we are on a sustainable track. Currently we don't have a formal agreement as to the path we would like to take, we need to formalize what we want; which at this point is an executive director (ED). We formalized that before in Billick's document (business plan). Development activities would be in support of that objective.

Kloeppel has questions about the timing: do we do an event in 2013? It is up to the committee members to decide if we do one in 2013. Probably should do in Jan-March. Lots of discussion of when we go into campaign mode. Probably should raise half and match it with restricted fund. Goal of \$125,000; once we reach it, match with restrictive funds. We

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will have lots of costs and we will need a budget. \$250,000 is the minimum; 3 or 5 year plan. Better to be very realistic, \$300-\$400 K (maybe a 2 to 1 match) need at least 3 years of salary. Good candidates will not come for small amounts of money. The Board asked the development committee to set a target amount

General recommendations discussed: how much to match from the reserve, sequencing of events: we agreed that we don't commit reserves until we have a plan, a hard ask needs some more buy in. Oktay suggested we do a training event at the same location for 2013 and 2014. Solicit advice at the first event on what people think of this approach. Maybe share with NAML? Split position not ideal. Nagy suggests we run planning projections for both full time and less than full time. Need to pick the right 6 figure number; \$500K at least?

Members will receive better services; will we be able to raise annual dues? Possibly. Critical operation issues; will really change OBFS President's position and expectations; they will need to help ED. Need some kind of liaison from the board to serve as that person's supporter. They will need to go off and do a lot of things, and we will need to be in close contact.

Action Item: Kloeppel will summarize the discussion and budget scenarios and get out to everyone in a straw man document for our input.

3.) New member effort (Schulze)

Schulze has been pulling together the list; so far he has the database he was sent and a spreadsheet of all current and past members. 361 total between the two; 163 are not currently members. 444 that were solicited in the survey. Still may not include all the LTER or experimental sites; maybe 500 to contact! Schuster is hoping people can feed information into Schultz. He will ask Slavik to give those names/sites to Schultz. NEON has 60 sites; he will ask Swain to send those to Schultz. LTER: Schultz will look up those names.

Action Item: Schulze will combine these names into one master document

Can we put it on the website? Google Docs would be better. We want an excel spreadsheet for 2-3 people to edit. Sounds as if we really want a spreadsheet that people can edit. Should have a Master list that doesn't get changed and one that people can edit. Can set it up as a web form.. Cohen maintains the OBFS mailing list; he can add them to the mailing list. Billick has one suggestion; there is an issue as to how people define themselves as field station; need a definition such as those sites which do sustained research

over extended periods of time. In the strategic plan, we are doing a membership drive, and we would like to bring those people in. What should the outreach say? One or more letters; example of different types in the letter, and use those lines in the contact list. Ideally one letter goes out to everyone, then do targeted follow-up of that community; follow up from LTER, from NEON – just from Schuster, he will send a series of emails out to feed Schultz this information. Pearson will set up the Google Doc; should be able to view and see the list and add members. Need to add columns for tracking.

4.) Strategic Plan Related Questions (Billick)

Billick had one question regarding insuring access to public lands. Someone offered up his international legal firm; his question, can he go to them and give them this issue of national and possibly international scope (assuring access to public lands" and have them investigate it?

Do we do an FSML planning grant for a staff person? Or a RCN to work on it? Some thought that an RCN would be helpful for addressing data management or sustainability. At the Joint NAML/OBFS meeting, perhaps sharing or working on establishing a staff person would be a reasonable outcome. Schuster: an RCN might work; the FSML deadline is December. We should ask Peter McCartney, and as chair, Kloeppel could ask. Kloeppel, might this be more work than it is worth? Billick: my guess is we could submit a small grant any time directly to McCartney.

Action Item: Kloeppel will check talk to Peter McCartney about these options.

Conflict of interest statement. Do we need to have one? Are there any indemnification clause in the bylaws? Doubt it, but we should. We should include it in the conflict of interest. Important for developing a staff person.

Action Item: Nagy will follow-up on this.

Next meeting Dec 3 at 3:00 pm Eastern.

Minutes from August 31st were adopted as amended. Moved and approved.

10:50 AM adjourn. End of the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted
Sarah Oktay, OBFS Secretary

Conference Call

December 18, 2012 – 3:00 pm (EST)

In Attendance: Ian Billick, Brian Kloeppel, Deedra McClearn, Jerald Dosch, Eric Nagy, Sarah Oktay, Gwen Pearson, Mark Schulze, Bill Schuster, Karie Slavik, and Stacy McNulty

Meeting Action Items:

- Send 2012 Annual Meeting Minutes changes to Oktay.
- Slavik will follow up with Dawn Wilson and McClearn with suggestions for annual meeting survey.
- Slavik will incorporate McClearn into the 2013 annual meeting planning.
- Nagy will send us info on the “Center for What Works”.
- Schuster will add a discussion of Forest service and field station permitting processes to 2013 agenda.
- Schultze will collate the lists of members (current and former) and generate one list.
- Pearson will see if she can get the growth numbers from Cohen for the solicitation letter from Schuster.
- McNulty will work on an application for student reps to join our board and attend our annual meeting as part of the Human Diversity Committee.

Motions:

1.) Reviewed agenda: added three items:

Scientific Access (Billick); Website: (Pearson); Student Representative (McNulty).

2.) Approval of Minutes from Annual Board Meeting (Oktay)

Long set of minutes from annual meeting, several people have changes; Oktay will send them out again for board approval via email.

2.) Next meeting proposed for March 15th at 3:00 pm Eastern (Schuster)

Stacy has to teach that week and cannot be on the call.

3.) Treasurer Report (Q1 budget Report) (Cohen) - tabled this discussion until he is able to join the call.

4.) Elections to Board (White) - tabled to see if he joins the call.

5.) Exit Survey Results from 2012 Meeting (Slavik)

She received 36 responses from 118 attendees. Of the people who responded, half of them were directors from field

stations. Each year, the survey is tweaked a bit to ask different questions and reflect suggestions made in previous years. The host site compiles it with the assistance of the VP if needed. We need to work to get the response rate up, perhaps we should give out some kind of a gift like an inexpensive pocket knife (or something easier to take on a plane) for completing it.

Some new topics mentioned on the exit survey were: data management, strategic plan, fundraising, and the advisory committee. Respondents asked for more networking time and more down time. They liked the concurrent sessions and the structure of the meeting. They would prefer that the new facilities slide show be given earlier in the meeting so they could interact more with new members. To facilitate interactions we need to remember to do introductions on the first evening. They did not like the long evening talks. The OBFS level questions gathered some good information. Slavik will share all the info with Wilson in order to facilitate the 2013 meeting. We need to work hard to get people to respond, maybe by moving it to survey monkey or something else that would be easier to do when people get back to their home bases. Such a long survey would be a ton of work to do it online, but it is doable. We need time to fill it out. Perhaps we should hand it out earlier in the meeting or set aside time to complete it on Saturday night or Sunday morning? Slavik will follow up with Wilson and McClearn on how to tweak the survey and when to administer it and how to improve the return rate. Pearson said the PowerPoints were on the web now for the annual meeting

6.) 2013 Annual Meeting 9/19-9/22 at SWRS (Slavik)

Slavik has made a lot of progress on the 2013 meeting with Dawn Wilson; the theme they have been discussing is the “Intertwining of Education and Research” to reflect the fact that many field station have evolved missions that have moved from research only to research, education, and outreach. Kloeppel thought the theme should be pretty generic to apply to the majority of field stations and capture a big picture idea. The Board needs to think of a holistic theme. We should also review recent meetings such as the one at Bodega Bay and not be redundant.

The announcement for the annual meeting will be up in January and the registration is set up to be “live” in early May. We were going to stick with the BOD meetings on Wednesday night and Sunday am. Last time there was good attendance at both Board meetings.

The Board discussed the price for this year’s annual meeting which is currently set at \$410.00. Wilson does not have many options/avenues as far as subsidizing the cost. The board discussed ways to have host institutions subsidize the costs and keep them as low as possible for attendees and

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emphasized that we need to ask the hosts to think of ways to reduce costs early on in the process.

Wilson and Slavik were work on obtaining recording equipment to tape the meeting. McClearn will jump in too to be involved in the planning effort for 2013. Slavik will make sure she is cc'ed on all phone calls and meetings.

7.) 2014 Joint Meeting with NAML at Woods Hole 9/20-24 (Billick, Schuster)

There is no official single host organization for 2014, instead this meeting will be a team effort with NAML. Ian is working on the meeting content with Ivar Babb. Jo-Ann C Leong is the current NAML president. The organizing team should be composed of two people from each organization.

Currently Slavik is soliciting other meeting hosts for 2015, etc. She sent the Illinois Great Rivers Program a copy of a previous successful proposal, they are interested in hosting. Need to keep in mind regional distribution for each meeting. 2013 Southwest, 2014 New England, 2015 Midwest, next we should aim for a Southeast station. The board discussed a variety of locations and prior and potential hosts. People felt that Alaskan station like Toolik Lake, although an interesting a beautiful site, would likely be too expensive.

Jerald Dosch had to leave the call at 3:31 pm

8.) Strategic Vision Final report (Billick)

The penultimate vision report has been released to the steering committee. The workshop report is in its final draft form. The final approved version will be released after the holidays. Some questions that have come up: How hard do we want to work on a network office?? The appeal of having a centralized office has been brought up many times. Ian invited questions and comments from the Board. McClearn was very impressed by the report and the bibliography. Schuster was wondering where the report would be sent to. Ian replied that it would be available online for people to print out and it could be found on OBFS and on weebly page. Please email Billick with any critical changes.

9.) Development Committee Progress (Kloeppel)

At our meeting in September we discussed how we would achieve some of the deliverables in the strategic plan such as a centralized network office and an Executive Director. We formed a committee consisting of Billick, Dosch, Kloeppel, Luke, Cohen, Swain, Schuster, and Oktay to draft a working development plan. Ian drafted an executive summary. Schuster, Kloeppel and Oktay met with Susan Obrien and Teresa Woolverton, two of Oktay's fundraising assistants to discuss Boston area options and the viability of holding a 2014 event. Their advice was to work harder on a statement

that clearly summarizes our message; i.e. what we are raising money for and how a centralized office and ED would enhance all our missions and the educational or research reach of the combined Field Stations. They felt the member station have a great opportunity to educate more about OBFS and that we should work on case statements that help lay people understand what we do and how we serve the research community and collegiate community and the public. Their advice: get the word out, find people near each field station to host small events. It is possible to set up events in Boston for 2014, but it will take time and thought to generate an attendee list and an event location as well as speakers and we have to have a concrete message to share. They both strongly recommended having science based charismatic speakers (who could be field station directors) who can effectively tell our story.

Nagy gave us a short report on how the AIBS is doing and how it might relate to our development efforts. AIBS has been poorly attended recently and is currently undergoing a radical shift with a new strategic plan. They would like to coordinate more with their member organization such as OBFS, which is an active and important member of AIBS. He felt their efforts may be relevant to our Executive Director evaluation process. A couple of people on the council and board of AIBS have been helping them restructure. Mary Byers co-authored a book called the "Race for the Relevance: 5 Radical Changes for Associations" that might be helpful for our development committee to read. He also recommended Debra B. Natenshon, Chief Executive Officer for the "Center for What Works" as a speaker. <http://www.whatworks.org/> He will forward some info on that organization.

11.) New Station Member Drive

Schuster has a new draft of a solicitation letter. Schultze believes he has all the pieces to form a master list of stations, including current and former and potential ones and he will merge them into one list using all the other lists we have generated recently. Currently there are 400 names on the list. How would we like to distribute the letter to stations? Is there a way we can make it more personal? We don't have all the names and addresses and emails for non member stations, in some cases we just have the name. Everyone needs to help out and review the list. Schuster asked Schultze to resend the list and if it is possible to sort it by state so each of us can review the ones in our area. Schultze will send it out by end of January. The Board decided the best approach was to email out the solicitation letter and then when possible follow up with a phone call. Schuster is looking for volunteers to send the email themselves to people they know (personal touch). McClearn mentioned that Carlos (new representative on International committee) has lots of contacts in South America. Discussed how we could confirm those who were enrolled in 2012 re-upped; in what manner could we cross-reference those?? Schultze is assuming that those enrolled in

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2012 would join in 2013 although he admits that is not the best assumption. Schuster recommended we add a column to the spreadsheet to designate if a follow-up call or email was sent. Schuster was wondering if we can calculate the growth of the organization over time to include in the letter and other publicity. Pearson will ask if Cohen can get those numbers.

Fiscal: Speaking of Cohen; he cannot join the call, so Schuster asked the Board to review the Q1 totals. Nagy asked what was the large bank charge (425.90) was for. Schuster will ask Cohen. We have a bit more than \$200,000 in holdings/assets.

Elections: White cannot join us on the call; Voting is closed; McClearn is VP; lots of applicants for member at large; need to verify with White who the winner is. Kloeppel will log on and check. There was a wide vote spread and a close race for MAL: Mel Dean had the most votes and is our new Member at Large.

12.) Other Items

Scientific Access (Billick); Billick wanted to bring to the Board's attention an issue he is investigating which is access to public lands. This item came up out of the FSML planning process. The US Forest Services Staff has expressed interest in trying to figure out how to streamline the permitting process. There is a law firm (Dealy Piper?) that is currently working pro-bono doing a regulatory analysis for MEPA permitting for field stations. He has asked both the Forest Service and Mike Slocum to give a talk on these subjects at a panel discussion. Many field stations (Coweeta, Hubbard Brook, Andrews, etc.) are associated with the Forest Service. Schuster will add this as an agenda item to the next annual meeting.

Student Representative (McNulty)

McNulty would like to have a student representative on the Board and have a method to bring students to our annual meeting. It has been very helpful in GLEON meetings to have student reps involved. She sent an email around to all of us describing the process and would love to hear our thoughts. This is something the Human Diversity Committee could oversee. They could ask stations to nominate a student and they could work on an application process based on the GLEON model. Everyone felt this was a great idea both for outreach and to incorporate potential new field station directors and young scientists. Slavik and McClearn will work to add this process to the next meeting.

We asked Nagy if this would require a change to the bylaws and he said: "No, the board is designed to be flexible".

Website (Pearson)

Discussed the ability to see the web site on tablets and the Iphone and other apps. When she redesigned the site it was more of a triage type situation and she just tried to get the pages looking good for the web. Pearson sent around a list of notes related to the website that we should review. She also had two questions: 1) Do we want to change the brochure or are we happy with it? 2) Do we want to create a new display that is more portable? She will be between jobs for a couple of months and now would be a good time for her to take care of larger projects. She could take the brochure and adapt it into 1-2 panels that could be set up as a portable pull up screen for maybe 300.00 per panel.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm pm (EST).

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Oktay, Secretary



**Southwestern Research Station (SWRS), site of the
2013 OBFS Annual Meeting
18-21 September
Check the OBFS website for further meeting details**

Theme for this year's meeting: "How Biodiversity is Shaping the Evolution of Research and Education at Field Stations".

The SWRS is a private, non-profit research facility under the direction of the Science Department at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH, New York). The SWRS, located in the Chiricahua Mountains of southeastern Arizona, is part of a unique complex of about 27 mountain ranges, the Madrean Archipelago/Sky Islands. The 96 acres of the SWRS is surrounded by the Coronado National Forest. Since its founding in 1955, the SWRS goal has been to add to the existing diversity and strengths of the AMNH by providing scientists and educators from the Museum and other institutions across the country and around the world the opportunity to participate in research, workshops, and classes in one of the most biologically rich environments in the United States.